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LD061350 [Editorial Report]

Israel

Israeli officials in Jerusalem "expressed shock and disappointment" over U.S. support for a "one-sided" UN Security Council resolution asking that deportation orders against nine Palestinians be rescinded, Jerusalem radio reported 6 January. On behalf of the UN Arab group, Jordan had requested an emergency Security Council session to consider the issue, Amman radio reported.

In response to a message from President Husni Mubarak, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir assured Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni that Israel encourages the restoration of calm in the territories because a "tranquil situation" is necessary to the peace process, Jerusalem radio revealed. Shamir also reiterated his country's stand on the legality and appropriateness of the deportation orders. Regarding substandand housing conditions in the camps, the prime minister asserted that "terrorist organizations and Arab countries" are "not interested" in resolving the problem.

In Gaza, one Arab was killed and seven others wounded when IDF forces fired on rioters in Khan Yunis, Jerusalem radio reported, noting that a soldier was slightly injured. An Al-Nasir resident was wounded by gunfire, and four soldiers were injured by stones in Rafah. A civil administration officer shot an Arab assailant who tried to stab a female soldier in Tulkarm, IDF Radio reported 6 January, adding that the security forces dispersed demonstrations in Gaza City and Rafah.

Inter-Arab Affairs

The ICO Jerusalem Committee convened in emergency session under the chairmanship of Moroccan King Hassan II to consider Israel's "despicable methods of repression" against the Palestinian people, Rabat radio reported, noting that all committee members except Iran and Syria were present at the meeting. In opening remarks to the session, which was held in Ifrane, the king proposed that the Islamic foreign ministers make every effort to "mobilize the widest possible support" for the cause of the Palestinians and of Jerusalem.

Speaking from Ifrane, Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, told Radio Monte Carlo that the PLO Central Council will meet in Baghdad 7-8 January to discuss "serious matters" related to maintaining the Palestinians' "magnificent uprising." Measures of "moral, material, diplomatic, or political support" will be discussed, 'Arafat added.

Egypt

Interior Minister Zaki Badr issued a statement banning street demonstrations and emphasizing the need to prevent "riotous elements" from jeopardizing security and stability in the country, MENA reported. Elsewhere the statement affirmed that the security organs will "confront" any attempt to stage such demonstrations, while urging all citizens to safeguard security and order during the current "critical stage."

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd ordered the cancellation of the recent decision to reintroduce personal income tax on foreigners, SPA reported.

Kuwait

Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir Al Sabah received Karen Brutents, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee's International Department, KUNA reported 6 January. Brutents conveyed a message to the amir from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. The agency earlier reported that Brutents was to acquaint the Kuwaiti leadership with the results of the Soviet-U.S. summit and discuss the latest developments in the Gulf region.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Klibi Sponsors Project To Halt Arms to Iran

LD050953 Kuwait KUNA in English 0810 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 5 (KUNA)—A press report said here Tuesday that the Arab countries are discussing a secret project that seeks to convince European countries to adopt joint measures to halt arms shipments to Iran in an attempt to force it to negotiate peace with Iraq.

Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi is the one who initiated this project and is currently discussing its details with Arab and European officials, disclosed the report which was published in the Kuwaiti daily "Al-QABAS."

Quoting a "senior Arab official" in Paris, the report said that the idea for the project surfaced after talks Klibi held with presidents and leaders of a number of Arab and European countries in the few past months.

The Arab project complements Security Council Resolution 598 and aims at closing all possible points in Europe through which arms could be shipped to Iran.

According to the report, two steps can be taken to ensure that arms are not reaching Iran from sources in Europe. The first is a joint European agreement that makes it illegal to export military hardware and spare parts to Iran.

If the first step cannot be achieved, the report added, the second step seeks a uniformed and united management action that makes it at least hard, if not impossible, for arms dealers to deal with Iran unless the Tehran Government seriously negotiates peace with its war rival.

Several Arab officials expressed that the Klibi project is necessary to exert pressure on Iran and to give more effectiveness to any future action by the Security Council against Iran.

PLO's Qaddumi Arrives for Jerusalem Meeting

LD051514 Rabat MAP in English 1218 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Fes, Jan 5 (MAP)—Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization Yasir 'Arafat arrived Monday in Fes to participate in the meeting of the Jerusalem Committee summoned by King Hassan ii. [passage omitted]

Another Palestinian delegation had arrived in Fes Sunday. It included head of the PLO Political Department Faruq Qaddumi, head of the Occupied Territories Affairs Department Muhammad Milhim, Attache to the Political Department Wajih Hasan 'Ali Qasim, Director of the PLO Bureau in Geneva Nabil Ramlawi, and the official in charge of the martyrs foundation, Ihsan Salhah.

The Palestinian delegation also includes Director of the PLO's Bureau in Rabat Muhammad Zakariyah Alami.

Saudi Foreign Minister Addresses Committee

LD061141 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0906 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] Ifrane, 6 Jan (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, minister of foreign affairs, called for consolidating Islamic and international efforts to put an end to the sufferings of the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories.

The foreign minister stressed that King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, was and still is giving this situation his attention through supporting and consolidating the steadfastness of the Palestinian people according to the resolutions of Arab and Islamic summits.

In his address to the emergency session of the Jerusalem Committee, which was held in Ifrane last night, his royal highness said that the Kingdom, coordinating with fraternal and friendly countries, continues its contacts with international sides, especially the members of the UN Security Council, in order to shoulder their responsibilities toward putting an end to the arbitrary practices and oppressive measures of the Zionist enemy against the Palestinian citizens in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and toward protecting unarmed civilians according to international agreements and treaties.

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal pointed out that the Zionist occupation authorities have escalated their oppressive and brutal measures against the unarmed Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories. He said that the grave situation demands quick and sincere efforts to secure the holding of an international conference for peace in the Middle East as soon as possible to achieve a just settlement of our principal Islamic cause.

The foreign minister called on ICO members to exert greater efforts with the superpowers to have them play their role in ending the Zionist occupation of the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, and in enabling the Palestinian people to achieve their legitimate rights and establish their independent state on their national soil.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Cited on PLO Government in Exile

NC061004 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] The U.S. THE WASHINGTON POST newspaper said today that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat expects the organization to set up a provisional government in exile

soon and to launch a new Middle East peace initiative. 'Arafat told the paper: I think we should establish this government. However, he added that he will maintain his formal neutrality on such a possible move in anticipation of the outcome of the discussions which are currently taking place in the organiztion.

The Palestinian leader said that the establishment of such a government will undoubtedly be accompanied by a basic political program aimed at overcoming the U.S. and Israeli refusal to conduct open talks with the PLO. Washington is demanding that the PLO recognize Israel and abandon what it calls terrorism as preconditions for its agreement to open channels of communications with the organization.

'Arafat Comments on West Bank, Gaza 'Uprising'

JN052012 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1744 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Telephone interview with Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, by Antoine Nawfal, Radio Monte Carlo news director, in Ifrane, Morocco on 5 January—live or recorded]

[Text] [Nawfal] Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], the situation in the occupied territory has escalated once again. Yesterday you predicted that the escalation and the uprising will continue. But did you expect it to escalate in such a terrible manner. The number of dead is increasing daily. Today, two were killed in Khan Yunus in the Gaza Strip.

['Arafat] I had predicted this in all my statements and contacts—and even in the messages I sent to the United Nations and to the leaders of the Arab, Muslim, African, nonaligned, socialist, and friendly states. I asked them all to stand by the Palestinian people, particularly as I expected the escalation in view of the threats made by Shamir, Rabin, Shomron, and other Israeli political and military leaders. They threw in about four divisions—you can hear me, Antoine?

[Nawfal] Yes, yes, I can hear you.

['Arafat] They threw in about four additional divisions into the West Bank, in addition to the border guards and the (?police). However, as I have said and I will continue to say, the will of the people is united and the march will continue wave after wave until the occupier is expelled and the Palestinian flag flies over Jerusalem, God willing.

[Nawfal] Today, Bi'r Zayt was proclaimed liberated. What does its liberation mean for you?

['Arafat] It undoubtedly signifies good wishes. The mere fact that the students were able to drive off the troops from the university campus demonstrates the will of these students, the will of our people, the will of our masses—their peasants, workers, children, students, prisoners, men, and women. A decision has been made and that decision will continue and the implementation of that decision will continue until victory, God willing.

[Nawfal] On the political level, Abu 'Ammar, Jordan has requested a Security Council meeting to debate Israel's decision on the deportations. There are serious Arab contacts to convene a meeting of the Arab League Council. You are in Fes to take part in the meetings of the Jerusalem Committee. Will these efforts succeed, partially or wholly?

['Arafat] Undoubtedly. The call for a Security Council meeting is based on the recommendations of the Security Council itself. Deportation is one of the matters discussed in the earlier debate. After consultation, the Arab states requested [such a meeting], with the support of the nonaligned and friendly states—and even the European states agree to a very great extent and clearly support Arab rights and the Palestinian struggle and completely reject deportation. The same goes for the U.S. official spokesman who yesterday declared his rejection of the deportation of the strugglers from their land.

There will also be a meeting of the Jerusalem Committee today—the meeting was scheduled for yesterday but it was postponed until today—to support the march of our people and their continued struggle. The main point we are discussing—in our contacts at the United Nations, the Jerusalem Committee, the ICO, or with the EEC countries or the socialist countries—is measures for international protection for our people from the preplanned and programmed racist, facist Israeli terrorism against our people, children, and women.

[Nawfal] A small marginal question, Abu 'Ammar: According to your information will King Hassan II chair the Jerusalem Committee meeting today?

['Arafat] We are waiting—it has been announced his majesty is ill.

[Nawfal] Yes.

['Arafat] May God cure him. We pray for his recovery and God willing he will be able to attend the meetings. I am optimistic about that. I know that his majesty is concerned about Jerusalem and Palestine. I hope he will be able to attend the meeting.

[Nawfal] You had said—I think yesterday—that the PLO Central Council will meet in Baghdad soon and may make a very important decision. What is the nature of that decision? Is it connected with the provisional Palestinian government?

['Arafat] The PLO Central Council will meet in Baghdad 7-8 January. It will be followed by expanded meetings of the Palestinian leadership—the PLO Executive Committee, the Palestinian leaders, the Committee for Occupied Territories Affairs, and the Military Council. We will

discuss serious matters connected with the continuity of the magnificent uprising of our people and masses. We will discuss the use of the resources of friendly and fraternal forces so we can really maintain such action—through moral, material, diplomatic, or political support.

As I have said, at some stage we must also use not only stones. Now is the stage of using stones. In the future there will be stages when other things than stones will be used. But there is a time for everything and a stone correctly used at the right time is effective. Now, the Palestinian stone is a jewel.

[Nawfal] Will this stage to which you are alluding take place soon?

['Arafat] This depends on the reactions by this Israeli military gang occupying our land and spoiling the sanctity of our churches, mosques, houses of worship, schools, villages, universities, and houses. This depends on the actions of this Israeli military gang. I want to tell Rabin, Shamir, and Shomron that our people are a people of martyrs. They have been offering martyrs since Christ proceeded on the road to Golgotha and through all the battles that our Arab nation has waged on this pure and good land.

Our people are the people of martyrs, those who love freedom, those who give bountiful offerings, and our people are also the people of divine messages. That's why the martyrdom operation to us is linked to our values, beliefs, religion, and principles.

[Nawfal] Abu 'Ammar, international public opinion supports the uprising. The international community's stand condemns Israel. The people's stand and the Mellor issue are examples of this. However, is this enough to change things?

['Arafat] Yes, this is enough. I want to remind the world at large that such a thing took place in Algeria. During the first Evian talks and after they failed, the Algerian people took to the streets with their revolution and the FLN. Their uprising in the streets has had the final say. We mkst learn from the peoples' experience. Our people will learn and afterward teach others.

[Nawfal] But there was a man in France named Charles de Gaulle?

['Arafat] This is true. I do not believe that such a man can be found among this military gang. However, only iron can dent iron in the final upshot. As I have said, our people in this uprising and all our people in the camps have proclaimed a new reality, that blood has defeated the sword. The Indian people, using whips, succeeded in triumphing over the British Empire.

[Nawfal] In any case and speaking generaly, what do you expect to happen in the occupied territories during the next few hours?

['Arafat] I expect more reactions on all fronts and in all directions whether in the camps, the school, the villages, on the roads, in the cities, in the universities, and also in the detention camps. I believe that all this will take place because it is inconceivable under any circumstances for our people not to triumph.

The enemy is now cornered. It is facing a historical, political, and international dilemma. Our people, who have been carrying out the most protracted revolution in comtemporary history, cannot but regain their freddom and triumph. The dawn is coming and victory too.

[Nawfal] Abu 'Ammar, thank you.

Yasir 'Arafat Addresses Baghdad Rally 3 Jan

JN051318 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1815 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Speech by Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, at a Baghdad public rally organized by the Palestinian unions and popular organizations in Iraq on 3 January marking the 23d anniversary of the Palestinian revolution—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Brothers, a few days ago we met here in the first Arab meeting of solidarity with the revolutionaries in our occupied territory. Today, on the occasion of the 23d anniversary of the Palestinian revolution, it pleases me, Brother Sa'dun Shakir [Iraqi interior minister], brothers, and beloved ones, to meet once again on the land of Iraq. We meet here so our outcry from Basra, the north, Mandali, the center, and the south will reach the West Bank, Gaza, Galilee, and the [Arab] triangle. [passage omitted]

This year, brothers, they made me two offers. Rabin himself made me two offers. He said: Let us return to the 1981 cease-fire agreement with the Palestinians. I told him: I was not the one who violated the cease-fire. It was violated by Sharon. Whoever started this must face the consequences. Let time decide between us.

Only yesterday, brothers, the Israeli Navy and Air Force bombarded east of Sidon, the Al-Awwali River north of Sidon, Al-Jiyah, and the positions of the Palestinian revolution. We know, brothers, this is part of an attempt to divert attention from another battle which they want to impose on us in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

This is the plot, my brothers. From my position in the Palestinian revolution and from my position with the Arab nation, I have the right to ask: Where is the Collective Arab Defense Pact? Where does this pact stand in terms of assisting the Iraqi Army on the eastern flank of the Arab nation. My Brother Sa'dun, I have the

right to ask such questions. Where does this pact stand in terms of assisting this Palestinian revolution and its Lebanese allies in southern Lebanon? Where is [words indistinct]?

Where is the Arab assistance for those who are facing the Israeli tanks, [word indistinct], terrorism, and crimes with stones? I want to repeat what Saladin [Muslim leader during the Crusades] said: I do not want your prayers; I need your swords. [passage omitted]

Today, a decision was made to deport nine of our heroes in the occupied territory. However, I want to remind Shomron, Rabin, Shamir, and Peres and tell them that the Sabra and Shatila massacres were incapable of terrifying Aminah and 'Ali Abu Tawq, how can Shomron terrify our heroes from Rafah to Janin?

This is because we are raising the slogan of the Palestinian poet Mu'in Bisaysu. The slogan says: If I fall in action, my comrade-in-struggle, take my place and my weapon because my arms will not stop bleeding. I have not died; I am still exhorting you despite my wounds.

This is the revolution, my brothers. There will be more deaths and I mean every word I say. They have [word indistinct] since 24 October 1986 until now. Let them deport, expel, wound and arrest. This uprising will continue; this fighting will continue and there will be more deaths. Yesterday, these heroes confronted the Israeli Navy and Air Force in southern Lebanon, on the mountain, in Sidon, and east of Sidon at night.

This is our will, my brothers. Their intention is to extinguish God's light: But God will complete the revelation of his light, even though the unbelievers may detest it. [Koranic verse]

At one time they thought they could destroy [words indistinct]. This came at the proper time. The adage says: Whenever I am facing a dead end I receive relief. This time some people thought that the London document [reference to the reported agreement by Peres and King Husayn in London] the so and so document and agreement [words indistinct]. They thought they could end the Palestinian revolution. These waves from our occupied territories not only drowned the London document but also drowned the [word indistinct] dreams in this Arab region.

Therefore, I am confident in victory as I am confident that I can see you now. I am confident of victory because I am observing a child protecting my land. I am confident of victory when I see a child holding one of the sacred stones of our sacred land. I say, my brothers, that this march will continue until victory. This is the will of the liberation and the will of the masses. The will of the masses is the will of God. [passage omitted]

'Arafat on Palestinians' 'Long-term Struggle'

PM051301 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 2 Jan 88 p 7-10

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, alias Abu 'Ammar, by Hamidah Na'na' in Baghdad on 14 December 1987]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] AL-TADAMUN: What moves has the PLO made in confronting the "iron fist" decision? And above all, what is the nature of the PLO's moves in supporting the uprising embarked on by your people inside [the occupied territories]?

'Arafat: We have taken a number of measures and made moves at various levels. We have contacted the Security Council's permanent member states; we even sent the U.S. representative a message via the Italian Government. We also made contacts with all socialist states, nonaligned states, African states, and the Islamic states. We asked the Security Council to convene an urgent meeting.

The Arab League collectively submitted such a request. The Security Council is now in session. We have also requested that an Arab League Council meeting be held at the level of representatives in view of the need for speed in handling the situation. This is because, if we requested that the meeting be held at another level, it would take more time to arrange.

AL-TADAMUN: How do you expect the situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to develop? The uprising occurred after both the Amman Arab summit and the Reagan-Gorbachev summit were held. Will the escalation of resistance on the inside force the Israelis to withdraw from Gaza and some areas in the West Bank, and what is the PLO's plan in this regard?

'Arafat: As I said earlier, we are sparing no efforts to support the steadfastness of our kin on the inside. In our request to the United Nations we focused on three important questions: protection for the Palestinian people's civil and human rights; protection of political rights, including the right to self-determination; and international protection for our people under occupation. [passage omitted]

AL-TADAMUN: Do you think what is now happening in both Gaza and the West Bank could lead to a partial withdrawal of Israeli forces from the present positions?

'Arafat: I do not believe Israel will easily withdraw from its present positions. What prompts me to say this is the fact that Israel has taken a decision to increase violence. I do not think that those who vote in favor of a decision to further strengthen the iron fist would easily embark on a withdrawal. We have to prepare ourselves from this moment in time to engage in long-term struggle with this fascist, racist enemy.

AL-TADAMUN: There have been voices inside the Israeli Knesset warning that the population increase in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip will lead to a real problem for Israel to handle. Arab inhabitants are increasing and Gaza in particular is considered to be the most densely populated area in the world; therefore, the Israeli state will need huge resources to control the security situation there. What is the aim of these voices which we hear inside Israel?

'Arafat: Undoubtedly the Israeli Government is going through a true dilemma in the face of the escalating fedayeen operations, the explosion of the Palestinian demographic bomb, and the resolute resistance and confrontation maintained by our masses. Resistance today comes from all our people, including children, old men and women.

I do not want to run ahead of events and propose solutions to the enemy's problems. We, as a Palestinian revolution, request full and comprehensive withdrawal from all occupied territories, both Palestinian and Arab. This is our official and political position. We adhere to all our principles and claims while at the same time exerting our efforts to aggravate Israel's dilemma internally. AL-TADAMUN: Does this mean there is a decision to escalate the uprising?

'Arafat: Yes. This is shown by the escalation of both military and popular action. Anyhow, we have not ceased military action: Last month alone our forces recordes 68 fedayeen operations in addition to 42 operations carried out in south Lebanon. This means that the Palestinian Revolution Forces have carried out a total of 110 operations in south Lebanon and inside the occupied territories, that is, a rate of 4 operations a day.

AL-TADAMUN: Assuming that the issue of an Israeli withdrawal from Gaza were offered today, what would be your position?

'Arafat: This is not an accurate assumption; we must not delude ourselves that the Israelis would withdraw from a single inch of Arab land without making us pay a heavy price.

AL-TADAMUN: Do you think the uprising and its escalation could speed up the prospect of convening an international conference to solve the Palestinian problem?

'Arafat: No. I do not believe so because the U.S. Administration is blind, just as the HADASHOT newspaper has already described the Israeli Government. Both the U.S. and Israeli Governments are blind and see in the Middle East only one right and one security, that is, the Israeli right and Israeli security.

The United States is unable to see Arab and Palestinian rights, thus it does not think about a Palestinian state. Arab and Palestinian security does not worry the United States. [passage omitted]

AL-TADAMUN: There is a very important issue on which light should be thrown. It has been noticed that statements issued from the occupied territories speak out in the name of the Islamic groups sometimes: Does this mean there is coordination between these groups and the PLO, or are they operating alone?

'Arafat: No force can work alone. There is a Palestinian people, with all inclinations, that is fighting to achieve one objective. Such a phenomenon crystallized clearly at the recent PNC session. We were determined that all trends should be represented in the Palestinian arena, whether religious trends or trends promoting Marxist principles, and certainly all national trends working for the liberation of Palestine. The PNC session in Algiers included all Islamic, national, and Marxist trends, including the Palestinian Communist Party.

AL-TADAMUN: Islamic forces have for some time been hesitant in adopting armed struggle. Does their participation today in the uprising in the occupied territories constitute a victory for the PLO's viewpoint?

'Arafat: I do not accept the way the question is phrased. What is happening now inside the occupied territories is not a victory for one trend or another. We are at a stage of national liberation, thus all Palestinian forces are participating in this jihad and struggle against Israeli occupation. What is happening now is a victory for the Palestinian nationalist program, which stresses the need to confront occupation in all forms.

The nationalist program is the PLO's program. It is this program which prevails on the inside, not just through confrontation, but indeed through the slogans raised as well. The slogans raised are part of the nationalist program as well. The portraits of Abu 'Ammar are not raised on a personal basis, but on the grounds that he is the PLO leader.

We can say that the Palestinian national struggle has reached a mature stage to the point that everyone is fighting with one will and under one slogan, just as they fought in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon. The Palestinians fought inside the camps in Lebanon under one slogan despite the differences among their factions and inclinations. They also fought under one banner, namely the PLO banner. This is what we are witnessing today inside the occupied Arab territories.

The Palestinians are confronting occupation under one banner, that is, the PLO banner, despite their differing views and inclinations. I want to stress here that the

uprising has not issued many statements, contrary to previous uprisings. There is action, not statements. There is popular consensus and joint rejection of occupation. [passage omitted]

AL-TADAMUN: Let us return to the question of an international conference. Do you believe that a solution through an international conference has come to a dead end? And do you think the idea of an international conference, which was discussed at the recent PNC session, has now ended?

'Arafat: Yes. In view of U.S. intransigence and unconcern about the Middle East issue on both sides, the Iraq-Iran war and the Arab-Israeli conflict, I would say: Yes, we have reached a dilemma because of the U.S.-Israeli attitude. The way out of such a dilemma is confrontation. What is happening in our occupied territories is an expression of the Arab will, which our people display today in their confrontation with the Israeli enemy. [passage omitted]

AL-TADAMUN: You have not personally announced in any statement the termination of the Jordanian-Palestinian accord, whose abrogation was announced by King Husayn.

'Arafat: Before the PNC was convened in Algiers, the PLO Executive Committee announced the termination of the agreement. I was elected Executive Committee chairman on the basis of a specific political program. Therefore I am committed to what the Executive Committee has announced regarding the Jordanian-Palestinian accord. Despite that, the PNC has announced, unemotionally, that there are special Jordanian-palestinian relations.

Thus, such special relations would be translated in the future into a form of a federation between two independent states, the state of Palestine and the state of Jordan, that is, if the Jordanian state requested it.

AL-TADAMUN: If the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue resumes again, will there be preconditions for beginning such a dialogue?

'Arafat: We are not prisoners of the complexes of the past; we are willing to initiate dialogue.

AL-TADAMUN: What is your opinion of the Amman Arab summit resolution on relations with Egypt?

'Arafat: I have always and will always remain against this resolution—I mean the resolution regarding the restoration of relations between Egypt and the Arab states. I am of the opinion that Egypt should be returned to the Arab League comprehensively. I maintained this position before and during the Amman summit and I still maintain it; it has not changed. I declared this before and after the summit.

AL-TADAMUN: On what foundations does such a position center?

'Arafat: We want a strategic change in the balance of Arab power in order to confront the Israeli enemy.

AL-TADAMUN: Your relations with Egypt have resumed once again after the estrangement which occurred during the PNC session in Algiers.

'Arafat: The reopening of PLO offices in Egypt fulfilled a promise that President Husni Mubarak made me in Addis Ababa. I thank him and the Egyptian people for this generous and cordial initiative made by a noble man.

AL-TADAMUN: Will you be visiting Cairo in the near future?

'Arafat: God willing. Who says I am against this? I have declared on more than one occasion that I am "Egyptian at heart;" I cannot conceal this fact.

AL-TADAMUN: What about relations with Morocco?

['Arafat] A Palestinian delegation headed by Brother Abu Mazin [Fatah Central Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas] has paid a visit to Morocco. Brother Wajih Hasan carried a message from me to King Hassan. [passage omitted]

AL-TADAMUN: I move now to the hot point, namely, your relations with Syria. Did you manage at the Amman summit to reach an agreement to restore relations between you and Syria?

'Arafat: Yes. We reached a decision at the Amman summit to restore relations once again with Syria. This took place after a dialogue between me and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in the presence of Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, who kindly mediated between us. President al-Asad blessed the agreement we reached in Algiers and also the Sidon agreement. He promised to exert efforts, through the presence of the Syrian forces in Lebanon, to end this nightmare and tragedy called the camps war.

Meetings are now being held between a Palestinian committee and a Lebanese committee which are attended by Syrian observers. We sincerely hope our Syrian brother will exert efforts to reach positive results and fulfill President al-Asad's promise to me at the summit, so that this black file the camps war file, can be closed.

AL-TADAMUN: Are we to expect, in view of the agreement between you and President al-Asad in Amman, in addition to the results of Palestinian-Lebanese talks to end the camps war, that normal relations will be restored between the PLO and Syria?

'Arafat: We are striving to achieve that. We made the decision at the recent PNC session in Algiers with a view to turning a new leaf in Syrian-Palestinian relations.

AL-TADAMUN: Does this mean that some Palestinian organizations, now based in Damascus and adopting a stand supportive of the Syrian stand, will return to work within the PLO framework?

'Arafat: Certainly. This is the PLO's law and no one, I nor others, can change it. If the organizations based in Damascus wish to attend the Central Council meetings tomorrow, no one can prevent them from doing so. This applies to other PLO elements. We are democratic and we respect democracy. [passage omitted]

AL-TADAMUN: A few days ago you declared the PLO's readiness to send combat forces to Kuwait. Do you have specific information about the nature of the dangers Kuwait is exposed to today? Do you have any information about any Iranian intention to invade Kuwait?

'Arafat: I said that 2 1/2 years ago. I said there was an Iranian intention to attack the Gulf states. I said that the Al-Faw battle was conducted according to English planning. The English not only planned the Al-Faw battle, they in fact repaired the Iranian fleet and supplied it with spare parts in return for the concession to explore for copper in Karmal. I do not speak from a vacuum.

The prime objective of the Al-Faw battle was to seize the Al-Faw Peninsula, Al-Zubayr, Umm Qasr, Warbah, Dhubyan, and the north of Kuwait in Al-Rawdatayn. A pro-Iranian state could be established in the areas occupied by Iran if the Iranians found it difficult to reach Basra. By establishing such a state Iran would have achieved a strategic objective, that is, to isolate Iraq from the Gulf.

AL-TADAMUN: Will the Arab stand adopted at the Amman summit regarding the Iraq-Iran war bring this war to a swift end? And what is your opinion of the situation in general?

'Arafat: In my opinion, the Gulf war can only be ended by a military force. Such a force can be formed by the nonaligned states, Islamic states supporting the idea of ending the war, or a UN military force. I have already said this before and during my participation in the good offices committee. [passage omitted]

AL-TADAMUN: Our final question concerns Libyan-Palestinian relations. How are they and what stage have they reached? 'Arafat: They are good, praise be to God; our office in Tripoli has been reopened.

Chad

Foreign Minister Returns From Visit to Algiers

AB051951 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] Our minister of foreign affairs returned to Ndjamena this morning from Algiers.

For 3 days, Gouara Lassou held talks with top Algerian officials. Talks centered mainly on bilateral relations and the current situation in the subregion, notably, the Chad-Libya conflict.

Egypt

Mubarak Denies Plans To Send Troops to Gulf

LD060916 Kuwait KUNA in English 0802 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 6 (KUNA)—Egyptian President Husni Mubarak here Wednesday emphatically denied reports that his country has agreed to send ten thousand Egyptian troops to the Gulf area to help combat potential foreign threats.

The reports also claimed that Egypt has agreed to receive five billion dollars in return for its assistance to the Gulf countries which are facing serious threats of being engulfed into the seven-year-old Iran-Iraq war.

Mubarak, in an exclusive interview with the Kuwaiti daily AL-ANBA only days before his scheduled visit to Kuwait, said that these reports are "fabricated," and that Egyptians "are not mercenaries."

"I cannot believe that I request five billion dollars from the Gulf countries as a price for assisting them... we are not mercenaries... the cooperation between us and the Gulf states is continuous and has never stopped even before the restoration of the diplomatic relations," the Egyptian president stressed.

Mubarak, who assumed the power after the assassination of late President Anwar al-Sadat in 1981, will pay a Gulf tour next week that will include all six states of the Gulf Cooperation Council. He is expected to arrive in Kuwait on Monday.

The danger of the Gulf war is one important topic that will be discussed during the tour, said Mubarak, adding that his country has never hesitated to support the Gulf countries and provide any assistance it can offer.

"If Iraq is hurt, the whole Gulf region will be affected, and consequently Egypt and the Arab countries in general. If the danger takes place there (in the Gulf) we (the Egyptians) are not too far from it," the Egyptian leader emphasized.

Asked whether he foresees an end to the fierce fighting of the Gulf war, Mubarak replied that the Arab countries can contribute to bringing an end to the war if they agree on a joint action against Iran.

In a clear hint to Libya's and Syria stands toward the war, which is characterized by support to Iran, Mubarak said that "if we can neutralize them (the Libyans and the Syrians), not ask them to attack Iran... only convince them to stop assisting Iran against their sister Iraq.

"If we can do that, I believe that this would significantly be a major factor against the continuation of the war. All I am asking is a minimum action from the Arab states," President Mubarak said.

Mubarak To Visit U.S. 'Late This Month'

NC052037 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2015 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jan (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak will visit the United States and several European countries later this month. Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said that the tour will include the FRG, the United Kingdom, France, Italy, and the United States. The president, he said, will hold political and economic talks with the leaders of these countries.

Ghali Gives Mubarak Report on African Tour

NC021401 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 2 Jan 88

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today received Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs. After the meeting, Dr Ghali told our correspondent that he had given the president a comprehensive report on the outcome of his talks in Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, and Sudan.

He added that his discussions with Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam centered on African issues, relations between Ethiopia and Sudan, and Egyptian-Ethiopian relations and ways of promoting them. He gave the Ethiopian president a message from President Mubarak, he said, and also conveyed messages from President Mubarak to the Ugandan and Kenyan presidents as well as Mubarak's congratulations to the two leaders on their agreement to resolve the border dispute between their two countries.

Ghali disclosed that he had held talks in Khartoum with Ahmad al-Mirghani, chairman of the Sudanese State Council; Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi; and the Sudanese foreign minister. These talks, he added, focused on bilateral relations and on Egypt's efforts to settle the differences between Ethiopia and Sudan.

Al-Sharif Comments on Mubarak-Ershad Talks

NC051406 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif made the following statement after the Egyptian-Bangladesh talks that were held today:

[Begin recording] At the expanded meeting, President Mubarak welcomed President Hussain Ershad and the delegation accompanying him, especially as this is the first visit by the Bangladesh president to Egypt. President Mubarak commented on their bilateral ties, which are based on friendship and fraternity. He also referred to cooperation in all spheres and with respect to all foreign issues. He noted that this cooperation is evident in bilateral relations. President Mubarak explained that his discussions with the Bangladesh president had centered on the Middle East, the Palestinian issue, and the Gulf war. President Mubarak remarked that the two countries have identical views on these issues. During the meeting, the two presidents reviewed the subjects that had been discussed by their countries' delegations.

There was an exchange of speeches during the meeting. In his address, President Ershad remarked that Egypt is his second country. He congratulated President Mubarak on his election for a second presidential term, praising his eforts for Egyptian development and the good of all Egyptians. He said he has been following these efforts with interest. He also praised Egyptian attempts to attain a just, lasting peace and seek a resolution of the Palestinian issue. He noted the efforts being made to hold an international conference in order to restore the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

The two presidents also discussed economic relations and emphasized the need to expand bilateral economic and trade cooperation.

President Ershad extended an invitation to President Mubarak and his wife to visit Bangladesh. [end recording]

The information minister added that the Egyptian and Bangladesh delegations discussed several political issues. Their views were identical regarding international, regional, and Islamic issues. They also discussed cultural cooperation between the two countries, and agreed to sign a cooperation protocol between the television and radio services of both countries and their two national news agencies. Talks also touched on economic relations and ways of promoting them. They signed a protocol to bolster bilateral economic ties. Barter deals between the two countries total $20 million.

Bangladesh Signs Media Cooperation Protocol

NC052200 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] Egypt and Bangladesh tonight signed a protocol on media cooperation, according to which both countries will exchange information, programs, and expertise in the media field.

Husayn 'Anan, chairman of the Radio and Television Association, who signed for Egypt, said the protocol is a turning point in media cooperation between Egypt and Bangladesh. He added that it will also contribute to furthering cordial relations between the two nations.

(Nazrul Islam), under secretary at the Bangladesh Foreign Ministry, expressed confidence that the protocol will help cement cooperation between the two countries. He also praised the Egyptian media for its state-of-the-art technology.

USSR's Brutents Concludes Official Visit

NC051615 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1528 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jan (MENA)—Karen Brutents, the Soviet leadership's envoy, departed from Cairo this afternoon following an official 4-day visit to Egypt, during which he had an audience with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. In a predeparture statement, the Soviet envoy stated that the purpose of this visit to Cairo, which was carried out on the instructions of the Soviet leadership, was to brief President Husni Mubarak and the Egyptian leadership on the results of the Washington summit and future disarmament prospects. He noted that the Soviet leaders appreciate the influence Egypt has on the international situation.

Brutents added that his visit was also designed to bolster cooperation between the Arab Republic of Egypt and the USSR which, he said, is progressing rapidly.

Brutents said that he had met with a number of prominent Egyptian officials during his visit. He disclosed that the discussion at these meetings centered on important international issues, the Middle East crisis, and matters connected with Soviet-Egyptian cooperation.

The Soviet envoy announced that he will leave for Kuwait to meet with a number of officials there in order to brief them on the results of the Washington summit. He said that he will carry out a similar official mission in the UAE.

Brutents was seen off at the airport by Ambassador Wafa' Hijazi, assistant foreign minister, and Gennadiy Zhuravlev, the Soviet ambassador in Cairo.

U.S. Stand on Israeli Practices Criticized

NC040746 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0615 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jan (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AKHBAR has criticized the U.S. stand toward the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories. It says that at a time when unarmed Palestinians continue to fall as innocent victims of the fire of American-made Israeli armored vehicles and tanks, the U.S. authorities are

holding talks with Israel in order to increase military and economic aid to it. Furthermore, the U.S. authorities are granting Israel a status equivalent to that of NATO countries.

In its editorial published today, the paper says that the United States always pretends to be resentful of what the Israeli leaders do, and then Washington sends them the required arms shipment after Arab outrage has calmed down. However, this time, the paper adds, the United States has contented itself will verbal expression of its dissatisfaction with Israel's brutal practices. The paper regrets that this should be the U.S. stand, despite worldwide condemnation and Israel's insistence on pursuing a policy of forcible suppression. It says that Washington has not even tried threats of canceling some arms supplies to Tel Aviv, which is the least it could do.

Egypt Protests Plan 'To Judaize' Jerusalem
PM041425 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
29 Dec 87 pp 1-2

[Mahmud Bakri report: "Israeli Plan To Judaize Jerusalem"]

[Text] AL-SHA'B has learned that the Egyptian Foreign Ministry has recently received a diplomatic report from the Egyptian Embassy in Tel Aviv indicating that a plan has begun to be implemented to Judaize Jerusalem in a piecemeal fashion. The new plan includes the use of all possible methods to achieve the complete Judaization of Jerusalem by 1994 to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the Theodor Herzl plan for the establishment of the State of Israel.

After it had been informed of the dimensions of the new plan, which it described as not conforming with respect for divine religions, a few days ago the Egyptian Foreign Ministry sent a strongly worded protest to the Israeli Government asking it to abandon this plan immediately, since this would constitute a new obstacle to the peace process in the region.

President Mubarak had sent an urgent message to U.S. President Ronald Reagan informing him of the details of the Jewish plan, asking him to intervene quickly to prevent the Israeli Government from pursuing it.

In another development, AL-SHA'B has learned that at a recent meeting of the Zionist government, Shamir announced his rejection of the Egyptian protest. He said: We will not abandon the idea of unifiying Jerusalem or making it the capital of Israel. He added: The Judaization of Jerusalem is one of our domestic policy requirements.

Egyptian Parties Urge Support for Palestinians
PM041119 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
22 Dec 87 pp 1-2

[Unattributed report on Egyptian Socialist Labor Party statement: "In Support of Palestine"]

[Text] Socialist Labor Party [SLP] leader Ibrahim Shukri yesterday called opposition party leaders to a meeting at which they discussed developments in the Palestinian revolution in the occupied territories. The meeting was attended by [Al-Wafd Party leader] Fu'ad Siraj al-Din, [NPUG leader] Khalid Muhyi al-Din, [Liberal Party leader] Mustafa Kamil Murad, and [Al-Ummah Party leader] Ahmad al-Sabahi. The meeting was held at 1300 hours at Al-Wafd Party headquarters. The SLP had earlier issued a statement calling for joint action in support of Palestine. The statement includes the following:

The Palestinian people's heroic uprising against the Israeli occupation once again proves that a Muslim people equipped with belief and truth is stronger than any oppressive force, however well armed it is.

By their unique uprising the Palestinian people are in fact replying to those who cast doubts as to its Arab, Islamic character. The Palestinian people are declaring their determination to achieve freedom. They are stressing adherence to their inalienable national rights, foremost among which are the right to return, the right to self-determination, the right to establish an independent state on their national soil. They are also confirming their support and commitment to the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

This uprising comes to confirm that no peace can be established in our region at the expense of the peoples' interests, and that there can be no stability there unless the Palestinian people's demands are met and all occupied Arab territories are liberated.

The Israeli repression, terrorism, and violence perpetrated by the occupation authorities against the Palestinian people are a practical test for the effectiveness and feasibility of what was achieved, namely the correction of Arab-Egyptian relations; indeed, they constitute a defiance to Arab solidarity and an attempt to embarrass the rulers and portray them as incapable.

In this regard, great responsibility falls on the shoulders of all Arab forces, both official and unofficial, outside Palestine. The world will define its stands according to what the Arabs provide to their bothers in Palestine.

Our parties are required to move quickly to organize campaigns for material and moral support for the fighters in Palestine. This task should be given top priority.

The Egyptian Government is also requested to take practical measures in addition to the statements it has issued in protest against the Israeli repression. Such measures should include reconsideration of the level of diplomatic relations and other relations with the aggressive Israelis in various fields. What the government is declaring—namely, that what is happening in occupied Palestine is a threat to the peace process—requires practical content to correspond to the gravity of the situation and the seriousness of the confrontation.

While saluting the Palestinian people's jihad, we convey to their leadership our admiration of the unique heroism in appreciation of the great sacrifices made. We renew the pledge to continue along the road of jihad in order to liberate Palestine from the filth of occupation.

The Palestinian people will not face the Zionist enemies alone; both the Arab and Islamic peoples are all by their side until, God willing, victory is achieved.

Street Demonstrations Banned; Students Arrested
NC051421 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jan (MENA)—Interior Minister Zaki Badr said today that the freedom of expression on national and Arab issues is a right guaranteed to every citizen. It also exists within all institutions and establishments, he stated. However, the interior minister added, it is totally prohibited for people to use this right to stage processions and demonstrations, because this would give riotous elements a chance to exploit the situation and carry out their plans aimed at jeopardizing security and stability in the country.

In his statement, the interior minister affirmed that, in accordance with the powers vested in them, the security organs will, with all their strength and determination, confront any attempt to stage demonstrations and assemblies on the streets.

The interior minister urged all citizens to safeguard security and order at this critical stage through which the country is passing. There are many local and foreign forces lying in wait to harm Egypt's security and safety, he said.

Meanwhile, some 'Ayn Shams University students, known for their opposition tendency, assembled in the university campus and started obstructing traffic and hurling stones at cars. This prompted the security forces to confront and disperse them. Some of the students were arrested and are being interrogated by the prosecution.

Court Rescinds Travel Ban on Newspaper Editor
NC051429 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1310 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jan (MENA)—At its session today, the State Council Administrative Court ruled that a decision banning 'Abd al-'Azim Manaf, chief editor of the SAWT AL-'ARAB newspaper, from leaving the country be suspended.

In its ruling, the court stated that freedom of movement and travel is an individual liberty guaranteed by the Constitution and the law, and consequently it is not permissible to deprive an individual of his right to move freely and travel without due justification. It is also not permissible to restrict this liberty or impose limits on a citizen's right to use it, the court said.

The court pointed out that according to the State Litigation Department there were reports that the decision to ban Manaf from traveling abroad was based on his possible connection with an organization that members of which were recently arrested. However, no irrefutable evidence had been established regarding this connection, and no such evidence was included in the file sent to the State Administrative Court on the case.

The court concluded that the foregoing cannot be taken as sufficient evidence to place Manaf's name on the list of individuals banned from traveling abroad.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Basic People's Congress
LD050930 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2148 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Address by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at a meeting of the local Basic People's Congress in Ben Ghushir on 4 January—recorded]

[Text] Good evening. With your permission, I would like to clarify a few points so we will understand how the Basic People's Congresses work. This one, the Basic People's Congress of Ben Ghushir—do we know how many members it has? How many? Very well. Into how many groups are they divided? Three. That means there are roughly 1,500 people in each group. Well, how many are here? Eight hundred. Well, then, let me ask you a few questions: Those who are university graduates, raise your hands. Good, thanks be to God.

Those who graduated from intermediate schools, teachers and the like? Good. University students? Good. Intermediate students, I mean secondary schools and institutions? Good. Farmers? Good. Production workers? Good. Government officials? Good.

Are there any doctors in the audience? Any chemists? Aren't there any university professors here? Ah good, good. Are there no engineers?

As I have told you, I have noticed in the past that some people responsible for implementing the decisions of the People's Congresses do not attend the sessions. Thus, they know nothing about the debates and decisions. Nor do have even the slightest idea about the agenda of the Basic People's Congresses and could not have contributed to the debate on the agenda or the adoption of decisions. However, they are the ones responsible for implementing those decisions. This cannot be allowed to continue and we must stop it. When a certain segment of society is seen not to be deciding its fate and does not take part, its role must be eliminated according to the decisions of the people's congresses and the people's power.

Someone else should take charge of its affairs and be its guardian. We can, for example, call on ordinary illiterates and form a people's committee including a secretary, an assistant secretary, and a secretariat for a group at any level, even for a group of university professors. We can do this if we see that university professors are not attending the congress, even though they know they have one. Why should such people ask for rights? Nor should we wait for them to discharge their duties, as they were not with us when we decided our fate.

We will choose some other group to represent them. The masses will say: Let us choose someone to represent that idle group. Let us choose five people, three peasants and two workers—it doesn't matter if they are illiterate—to represent that group, decide its fate, and take charge of its affairs, such as attending congresses. There is no work tomorrow, where is your ID card, why weren't you there, establishing a committee for trial, forming a people's court, a revolutionary court to deal with those people. [sentence as heard] They cannot say no, as they did not attend of their own free will and did not take part.

Furthermore, it will be all right if they do not participate and remain negative in every respect and in every way, as if to say: I will not join you, not in clothes, food, transport, or travel. We won't protest. However, they will come around the next day and complain about our decisions—we the people. They will moan about our decisions.

They will come around tomorrow and grumble about our decisions. They will ask: Why did you approve such a decision? Why did you allow me only 300 dinars [foreign currency allowance]?

Why did you not join us, take part with us, and learn what is allowed and what is not?

He wants to travel abroad 10 times a year on the assumption that he used to go to Europe, and now they won't let him. Why didn't you attend, as we did, share in the decision, and know that a person is only allowed to go abroad once or twice a year? Some countries have forbidden their citizens to travel due to the economic crisis affecting the entire world. They have imposed a complete ban, and have not allowed them to transfer any money.

It is far better to stay at home than to beg and fall. We are not living abroad; we do not know the place. We can stay in our own country and not spend any hard currency. That is far better for us than begging and searching for loans, asking here and there for money to eat and drink. Given two alternatives, would you prefer to save face, avoid begging, and still have money, which is better for you, or would you rather go to Greece, Europe, or any other place—even the minor pilgrimage and pilgrimage? Why do you need it? God will judge you if you ask Him: I have money, so should I buy food for myself and my family or should I use it to make the pilgrimage?

If you say: O Lord, I had some money, but I spent it on the pilgrimage. Now my family and I are hungry. God will tell you that He does not accept that pilgrimage from you at all, and that you were not required to perform it. The money should have been used to buy food for yourself and your family or to get some sheep or a farm. It should not have been used for a pilgrimage. Pilgrimage is for those who have the means. I beg your pardon; I singled out certain groups only because I wanted to say that we and the unions should take a serious attitude toward the people from those groups who do not attend. I mentioned that at the General People's Congress. What concerns me is the mobilization of the masses so they may decide their fate. That was the framework for my comments.

We should contact the secretariats of each trade union and vocational conference to determine which members attended the meetings and which did not. That will give us an idea of how many members of the trade union or vocational conference attended and how many did not and why not. It is only natural that those who do not attend should be asked to explain why. You are a member of the Basic People's Conference at such and such a place; why didn't you go?

We discuss the fate of doctors. We say that doctors are managing pharmacies and making a profit from them. We say that—sorry, I did not mean to say pharmacies but offices—private offices. We say that some people go to those offices for medical care. They pay for their treatment and do not go to a publicly owned hospital. A doctor may say: Let me open my own office. A member may say: No, don't let doctors open private offices. Another may say that doctors should work in hospitals in the morning and at their offices in the afternoon. Another member may say: No, don't pay doctors who have private offices. Strike them from the list of doctors working in hospitals. Let them live off the income from their offices.

We have to decide these things. The decision will concern this group of people, doctors and patients. We are affected by this decision, we who seek treatment from these doctors. We come to meet within the Basic People's Congress only to find that the doctor is not here. We could tell him, for instance, in our decision: Either you work at the general hospital or you open a private office. You cannot do both. This is our decision. He will reply: No, I cannot live off the income from my office. Therefore, you should let me work at the hospital and at my office. Why are you making things so difficult for me?

Why didn't you attend the meeting and help make the decision? We would expect all doctors, workers, farmers, craftsmen, and professionals to meet before such a session. They should hold special vocational meetings to determine their needs and decide what should be submitted to the people's conferences, supported by their own views, their own views on their own situation and position. Doctors, for instance, could meet and say: We doctors propose to the people's conferences while the latter are preparing their agenda—the agenda you formulated—that we should be allowed to work at general hospitals and, at the same time, open our own private offices.

The second choice is: Let us be free; let those who want to work this way do so and let those who want to live off the income from their offices without working at hospitals and, consequently, without being paid by society do so as well. Those are two options. One may say that at this point, there should be no private offices. That is a third possibility. One may say there should be only socialized medicine, as people need the services of doctors and free medicine. They talk about medical care abroad. The doctors claim that they should decide who will be sent overseas for medical treatment.

Medical treatment abroad is a problem. Who should go and who should not? Who is allowed and who is not? Some people may seek the help of others in influencing doctors to decide that they should go overseas for treatment. If a doctor decides that a patient should not be sent abroad for treatment, then that patient may say: Remove this physician, for he did not send me abroad. The doctor's decision may be right. A patient is sent abroad for treatment because his illness requires it, not because he knows someone who influenced the decision.

You may think that a patient who received care overseas knew some influential person. No. But if you are suffering from some illness, you may say to yourself: That person was sent abroad because he, unlike me, knew someone influential. You don't know any influential people and you start going around to this or that individual, saying: Please help me go abroad for treatment; talk to such and such a person, and so on.

All these manifest forms of corruption in society are unethical. We cannot go on this way. We suppose that doctors meet before the agenda is finalized and decide, saying that in our view treatment abroad should be conducted in the following way, etc. We have spoken about this before. Treatment abroad should be done this way: If there is a patient at a hospital or someone enters a hospital suffering from a serious illness, the doctors will say: This illness can only be treated with special equipment available, let us say, in Banghazi or Tobruk, or by a specialist working in Sabha.

Therefore, this patient must be sent for treatment at the special center in Banghazi or Tobruk, or should be referred to the specialist in Sabha. The specialist in Sabha will make the decision. That doctor will be the one to decide. He will state that he has seen this patient, and that he should now be examined in France. He will write that there is a center in France that diagnoses such ills. That is enough. In that case, the man could leave, and no one need know. No one has to know his name or that of his family or tribe. He can travel. He is patient No 10, for example. Doctors whose advice we take will tell us how the treatment will be conducted abroad.

After all, even when the state creates a committee to decide such things, the committee will be vulnerable to pressure, especially when it is composed of foreign doctors. Someone may go to a Pakistani doctor and threaten him with expulsion from the country or the loss of his job if he does not recommend treatment abroad. Naturally, he will be scared and recommend that the person be treated abroad. That has happened many times. We have investigated those cases, convicted those involved, and expelled the doctors who gave into such pressure.

Every section of society should work this way—workers at a plant, for instance. A conference should be held at the plant to discuss its problems. Take any plant. Let us consider the case of a factory for smelting scrap metal, regardless of its location. The workers at the plant should meet and discuss why it was closed. It was shut because it was losing such and such an amount of money. Had it remained open, it would have caused us such and such a loss. It requires such and such an amount of money whether is is economical or not.

The decisions made by these workers' conferences will be compiled and the people's committee responsible for this industry will amass the data and present it to the people's congress. After we conclude our meetings as vocational sections, we leave the vocational congresses and enter the Basic People's Congresses as members.

That ends our meetings as peasants or workers. The peasants meet before then to discuss the sale of vegetables, fertilizer, agricultural and irrigation tools, and all the problems they suffer from. For example, they say that we as peasants must bring in agricultural workers from abroad. We need someone to act as an agent, someone to collect the oranges from the orchard and sell them. You can call this person an agent, a middleman, or anything else.

The important thing is that he be authorized by law for the benefit of the peasants and their produce. However, sometimes they say that a farm must have a well and a pump, but brothers, if every farm had a well, and a hundred farms had a hundred wells and a hundred pumps, things would become inconceivable, illogical. Thus, farmers will discuss and debate, as our policy calls for a reduction in the number of pumps and wells and to economize on the use of fresh underground water. What should we have? Every four farms should have a well.

Thus, we as peasants, workers, doctors, and manual workers identify and discuss our problems. We should then offer solutions; everything is on the agenda of the people's congresses. Then we attend as peasants and examine an agricultural question. A peasant will claim to be more knowledgeable than anyone else about the problem. We studied the problem at our congress and made the following decision: We can make use of his opinion on the matter, as he is here not only to discuss agricultural matters, but the whole range of problems, as he is a citizen, and not just a doctor or something else.

This is a warning to all sectors of society, particularly those reponsible for implementing decisions. This is designed to draw the attention of all groups, especially those responsible for executing the decisions of the people's conferences and those concerned with the decisions that emerge from these halls. They should attend the meetings and take part in the decision-making.

As for the agenda, the assumption was that we had already formulated it, and that you were now debating it. The agenda should not be strange to you. You may wonder who included a given point. The agenda was formulated by the masses. You met before and put it together. That is the theory. When the agenda is placed before you, one would assume that it has no surprises, and contains nothing you haven't seen before. You should say: This is the agenda we formulated. If there is another people's committee somewhere else which submitted a proposal for inclusion on the agenda, that should have been done before, not now. It should have been referred to the conferences and submitted or drafted.

It should be known—we should know that such and such a people's committee has submitted a report on education, health, agriculture, or whatever. But we still hear participants in the conference saying: Who drafted this? Who introduced the question of freedom of education? Each one asks: Who did this? Who did that? You should know all these things—you should know how something finds its way to you.

Suppose I drafted something. When they receive the agenda, the people's conferences should know that this proposal came from so and so. The agenda should have been set by the conferences last year. It should not be strange to them.

The other thing I would like to talk about is the debate. I am referring to the revolutionary program. If you proceed this way, you will need 5 years to debate it. You will never finish. This gathering resembles a parliament or national assembly—I mean that the number of representatives is quite logical. Parliaments do not debate issues with speeches—I mean that we should not use speeches to debate issues at a session such as this. They should be debated from a practical point of view. You, that is, the leading body of the conference, should be responsible for this. The debate should be similar to one in a ministerial council; no one makes a speech. If a planning council meets, its members do not make speeches to debate a point.

If a local security council meets, the debate is not conducted through speeches; it is a debate. You are here to debate, not make speeches. Explanations are good if you want to educate the people, but from a practical point of view, they force us to waste time and prevent us from concentrating on something useful. You debate a subject without speeches or explanations. In my opinion, the revolutionary program is a help here. I do not believe it was submitted in a way that covers every point—there are some 30, or more than 30 points in the revolutionary program. They include education, barter, an end to wages and exploitation, and the fortification and improvement of the coast. Consumer societies and supermarkets are also included.

I do not feel that the revolutionary program was submitted in the way in which you are debating it. It should not be so. First, most of the points were proposed previously; we have finished with them. Those which were rejected were rejected and should not be debated further. Those which were approved were approved; that's it. Whether rejected or approved, these points should not be debated further, even if they are mentioned. The goal is not to debate them again but to put the entire revolutionary program before the people; that is the revolutionary program. Whether you proceed with it or leave it aside is up to you. If you wish to look for another method, do so. But we want to say that this is the revolutionary way.

All we are saying is that this is the revolutionary path we should follow. If you do not like it, follow another one. If you only want to take certain parts of it, feel free. The points related here are only to remind us that this is the revolutionary program. They are not to be discussed with a view to making decisions, as we have already made them. Everything before me in this revolutionary program has been decided. The productive city, for instance—we settled the question of the productive and combative city ages ago. No one will deny that our cities should be productive and combative. The important thing is to discover how to make it a productive and combative city.

There are some people [words indistinct] who are related to this type of life. Every family [words indistinct]. Fine. The congress should come up with practical measures. It is more than a question of speeches.

When I look at this revolutionary program, I see that the first point, that of organized common action, (?has been agreed upon by you all). Then, we come to rotation work. What does that mean? It means that each group among us works by rotation in the traffic (?sector), on patrol, in policing the shore, or in taking charge of a power station. I mean rotation as we have explained it. If we decided this before, then fair enough, but how should we set a practical program to implement it? We all raise our hands to express our approval, and the special committee determines the practical program and hands it to us.

You, so and so, will do your rotation tomorrow at such and such a place. You, so and so, will serve at this place. Then comes the possibility of changing if someone claims that his schedule is inconvenient. Put me somewhere else; I will be available on Friday or Saturday, and so on.

An' now for organized common action. Suppose all the residents of Bin Ghashir decided to build a school, or to set aside 1 day a week for a property campaign, and 1 day for jamahiri sports. The committees responsible for property, jamahiri sports, construction, or whatever, are the ones who set the executive action program. Then the decision is binding. When the committee comes up with a program, everyone must submit to this framework. Whatever we decide is binding. If we have to build a school, then we build a school.

This committee [word indistinct] decides, for instance, to build a four-classroom school at such and such a place. It needs 4,000 or 10,000 blocks or bricks, which should be brought from such and such a place; it needs earth or cement, which should be brought from such and such a place. It needs 500 people on the morning shift and 500 on the afternoon shift. We divide the 5,000 people we have, for instance, into 500-man groups. When they all (?take part in the work), the school will be ready. This is the collective action we have been talking about.

We take a forest, for example, and make it into plantations. The committee for cultivation determines the executive program. It determines the when and the where, and everyone helps out in accordance with a set schedule. Say 100 people a day clear the forest and transform it into agricultural land. How many plantations will we get? Say 100. Then to whom shall we give them? We distribute them in line with the law calling for them to be given to those with large families, the poor, those willing to work, etc. And in another step we create 100 more plantations and another 100.

Suppose we want to transform the sand dunes into a promenade. In 3 or 5 years they become a promenade. This committee determines its location, the seeds that should be planted there, and the way it should be done.

There should be practical things like this, as this congress and committee is composed of members who each represent a given sector of activity. You, what do you represent? [Individual replies: "Public service"] Public service, fine, and the fellow next to you? [Individual replies: "Social security"] Social security. As far as that sector is concerned, why should one write a letter saying I am a divorced woman, or a widow whose allowance is insufficient, and then send it to Mu'ammar? That should not be done. Mu'ammar will not always be here.

We want to create a situation that will last a year, 2 years, 10 years, 100 years, 1,000 years. We want to decide for our future. Our life is not temporary. It continues generation after generation.

How can we continue looking for Mu'ammar to give him a letter? This is a case for social security, which is here to listen to all the cases of this kind. In the future, people will need the umbrella of social security. How can we find these people? A way must be found. If you cannot find them by yourself, send people into every neighborhood.

Any family that needs social security should write to the office, which will gather the letters and deliver them to the committee. The latter will then sort them, investigate, and say: True, this family needs social security, and so does that person. Should someone, for example, lose his home due to a fire and need compensation, he should not write or look for Mu'ammar to tell him that his home burned down and he needs compensation.

There should be a system without you burdening yourself or without you having to seek the favor of others, and without you having to feel embarrassed. This is your right in this country and the country must guarantee your living and life for you. Write down that I am so and so and my house was burned down and its value is so and so, and I no longer have any furniture or money. There should be a law to compensate those who are victims of fires. Who deserves such compensation? The method of determining those who stand to benefit should be fixed—whether at the level of the committee in the locality or the committee responsible for insurance.

You should be compensated in such an incident without you having to go and knock on doors, and without difficulty. There is no need, for example, for a patient who deserves medical treatment abroad to burden himself with having to go and see people, etc. You here should tell us what the procedure should be in cases such as this. If you decide, then this will be implemented throughout the Jamahiriyah. It will be a decision.

If a patient has to seek the help of someone influential in this regard then this will be rejected. Shall we let him die? No, we reject that too. Therefore, tell us what we should do. What is the practical way to tackle such a problem—for a patient who deserves treatment abroad to be sent abroad without having to know somebody who is influential? You decide. You doctors—you decide; tell us brothers, what are your views? We said that the hospital is responsible for the patient's treatment. The hospital

should say: We have examined this patient and have treated him for, say, 1 year, and there is no benefit in this treatment and the patient must be sent abroad to such and such a country or be transferred to such and such a hospital—you know that there are hospitals in Tripoli and elsewhere.

Let us say that the patient is in Tripoli hospital, then he may be transferred to the Misratah hospital. If the Misratah hospital decides that this patient can no longer be treated locally then it may transfer him to the Shiryan hospital. If the latter says that it cannot treat him and decides that he should be sent abroad then the patient will be sent abroad. It is better that they should transfer you—the patient—within Libya, instead of transferring you from one country to another. There are machinery and apparatuses in various parts of the country. What you find in one part may be different to what you may find in another part. There may be a specialist—let us say in osteopathy—in Tripoli but no one like him in Banghazi, for example.

If they cannot treat you as a patient in Banghazi then that does not mean that you should be sent abroad. No. There is a specialist here. It is preferrable for you and your family, and as far as our money is concerned, that you should in this case be treated here. Let us say, for example, that there is an apparatus for brain scanning and let us say that it is in Darnah and that you, the patient, are in Tripoli. If the apparatus is not available in Tripoli you should not be sent, say to Germany, so that they can scan your brain; we have an apparatus in Darnah, which is nearer.

If the apparatus in Darnah is incapable of doing what is required then the patient will be sent abroad to this or that center. He will be sent without any fuss; the patient will be sent even if he does not know influential people. When the money which you have allocated for medical treatment abroad runs out and the patient says that he will pay for his own treatment—he gathers his family and they contribute to his treatment because the allocated money has run out. [sentence as heard] There should be practical debate.

In my opinion, the revolutionary program should be debated in this way. Number one, organized collective work, shift work, the masses and self-management, self-administration, self-sufficiency, the producing family, the producing establishment, the self-sufficient self-managed state, education, freedom of education—how many times have we spoken about freedom of education?

They say we do not know what freedom of education is; a student who does not want to continue his studies in primary or secondary schools or at university but wants to become a carpenter. All right, we decide that he can do so—leave school and become a carpenter. You should not say to him: No, you cannot. Make this available to him. How much money does this require? This is one point.

The other point on the agenda, which is more important—you should debate this—the conferences should debate this memorandum about the budgets. It is better to debate the revolutionary program—30 or 40 points. A lot of points were approved in the past. If there is something new—collective ownership—what is collective ownership? The factory which produces tomato puree—this can be owned by say 10 Libyans. The factory which produces furniture—this can be owned by 1,000 Libyans. We have approved collective ownership.

We have approved collective ownership and now we have to start preparing for it. Any group wishing to own this or that factory should come forward to this or that locality—you should advertise. The group comes and owns this or that company or this or that establishment. Maybe you own the harbor—1,000 Libyans come forward and say that they want to own the harbor. They may say: We own the harbor and will get profits from it and at the same time shall foot any losses, and we will run it, etc. All right.

What is socialism and why the revolution, etc.? There should be no exploitation. That is to say that the money derived from such activities should not go to the pockets of one individual. This does not mean that the state should own these. Why should the state own them? In order to distribute the income among the people. But if there is a group of Libyans who own such a utility, and another owns that utility, etc. then there is no need for a state. Take any factory and make Libyans own it—the important thing is that it should be owned by Libyans. That is it—the aim has been achieved. This is what we want.

Why should it be owned by the state? So that the benefit will go to the entire people. But if it is owned by one person then that person will get the benefit alone. He will become rich with a fat belly. They say God has given him this wealth—no God has not; we served and made efforts while he reaped everything and pocketed the profit. We work for 8 hours—he pays us for 3 hours and pockets 5 hours.

If there are 1,000 Libyans who own a hotel or 100 Libyans owning a hotel or 10 Libyans owning a hotel or a coffee-shop or any activity at all, which is supposed to be productive; or owning a farm or a building company or a cleaning company, or Libyans who establish a plant or a workshop—as long as they are a group of Libyans without a specific individual who is an owner who exploits them—that is to say all the Libyans are equal partners—then this is the aim.

Let everything be transformed into collective ownership. The huge things remain outside this—for example iron and steel, as 5,000 Libyans will not be able to run this. Also in this category is the petrochemical industries—say the refinery at the Abu Kammash for the production of chemicals, let us suppose, or an ammunition factory—

let these be owned by the whole of the people. Only these heavy industries will remain outside this collective ownership. But the majority of the points have been discussed before.

Let us go over them one, two, three, four, etc. Those which we approve we approve, and those which we do not, let us say so. There is no majority and minority in this. Either we totally approve or totally reject. This memorandum on the budget makes it clearer as it shows you how much we expect to allocate for agriculture, and how many millions we earmark for it; how many millions for industry; and how much we earmark for imports from abroad; what are the materials which we import. If the debate concentrates on this then this is preferable. Our income from sources other than oil; the revenue which we will get in 1988—from where? It will come from taxes and custom duties—200 million dinars, duties on production—60 million dinars.

Someone will ask: What are these duties? Why 59 million dinars? Let it be 60 million or 70 million. What are the consequences? The consequences are to increase the duties a little more. What do the duties mean? They mean that when entering a leisure center in Tripoli we have to pay 6 instead of 5, and when we travel by bus we have to pay 11 instead of 10, for example. This is an example. You can increase or decrease these duties and dues.

You can also say: No, the cost of traveling by bus is expensive and the cost of going to the leisure center is expensive and the entrance fee to the zoo is expensive. Why expensive? Because there are dues. All right, decrease the dues. This means that the figure—which is 60 million—which you get from these will become less. It may become 50 million or 40 million. What are the consequences of that? The consequences are that the budget which we said would amount to 200 million will become 190 million or 180 million.

This is a practical and beneficial discussion. It is unlike the theoretical discussion which I see in all the conferences now. This is before the income from the oil and the income from things inside Libya. The latter you should discuss; can we reduce them or increase them? Even the oil. We said that we sell 996,000 barrels a day; this brings us 100 million [currency not specified] a month, for example. You can control this by saying that as long as the oil is cheap we will not sell. We may say that you will sell only 900,000 barrels per day and get 90 million instead of 100 million a month. You may increase revenues from other sources and decrease oil exports.

But nobody can say: well 1.5 million barrels of oil a day. This is not allowed; Libya has its quota. This is in order to make available on the markets 15 million barrels of oil per day, for example. If the quantity increases the price will decrease. The oil-producing states have agreed on the quotas; each state has been allocated a quota. This is Libya's quota. That is to say less than 1 million barrels per day. There are things which are fixed. But we can cut back.

We can also say: No, we shall sell our oil at $25 per barrel. If nobody comes along to buy our oil we shall not get 100 million every month. What shall we get? We will get 50 million a month. All right, we shall put up with this situation. We shall put up with this situation in return for imposing our condition—to sell at $25 per barrel. Then the other states will follow in our footsteps.

You have total freedom—you can decide and know the consequences of your decision. Do not tell me that this is expensive and this cheap. Clothes—you go to the market and find that this shirt is expensive, and this footwear is expensive, while that is cheap. Why? You should know why. Where did you buy it from? From Europe. We bought it for 5 dinars. What do you charge for it? We sell it for 8 dinars. Why the 3 dinar increase? It is customs duties. According to customs duties the commodity which costs 5 dinars sells at 8 dinars. Someone may come and say: No, this is expensive. Reduce the cost and impose only 1 dinar as custom duties. If this shirt costs you 5 dinars sell at 6 dinars only. If we do that this means that the customs duties will give us 150 million dinars instead of 210 million dinars.

What will happen as a consequence? The budget which we have estimated at 2 billion dinars will become 1.7 billion. Therefore, you will have to cut according to your cloth, as they say. This is your money and this is what you need. You can reduce this and increase that; you can do what you like. We may rejoice and say that we have reduced the cost of clothes, but this will be at the expense of the budget. It means that the budget has decreased. This is because the duties and dues means that each one of us is contributing a little by paying them. If we buy something we pay a little more than the cost because we are contributing to the general budget in order to run a hospital and build a road; to provide housing for those who have no houses and carry out reforms; to establish industry and pay for doctors and nurses from abroad, etc.

You may say today: No, bring me something cheap. You can have these things cheap but your budget will decrease. That is to say that instead of contributing 2 dinars to your budget you may say that you want to contribute 1 dinar only. The other dinar has been lost to the budget. Why? Instead of bringing 10 nurses from abroad we can bring only 5. Instead of being able to bring 10 doctors we can only bring 5 doctors. Instead of building 10 schools we build 5 schools only. It should be quite clear to you: Nothing comes down from the sky. This budget has been calculated to the last penny, as they say. It is before you.

You can increase this and decrease this—you are free to do so. In agriculture—you may say increase the number of farmers and give them this or that fertilizer free and make the sinking of water wells cheaper for them, and make the price of water pumps cheaper. This means that this budget will decrease. This is because previously they used to give you fertilizer for little money and the pump used to be a little expensive and the sinking of wells used to be a little expensive. The aim was to collect some money from the farmers and put it in the budget. This is what is called revenues—local revenues. Provide these things cheaper and the budget will decrease.

We should discuss this practically and seriously concentrate on these items. We should not take too much time and we should arrive at a practical outcome. This year we should review what we approved last year. Last year we decided that this was cheap and this expensive and we have allocated such and such for this or that.

A member of the people's committee—the specialized member—should have the information from the general people's committee—all this information; he should tell the others: This is the answer. You decided last year that the Libyan farmer can employ a worker from abroad. The members may say: Yes, we decided this, but did the workers not come? He will tell you the reason. Or he can tell you the number of workers who did come but were not enough to distribute among all the farmers.

We have also decided that the produce must not be taken from him by someone else, and we, farmers, must not leave our farms. This one sells his land on the coast; someone comes and takes it from him. Have we not decided? Reply: Tell them the farmers' resolutions—they said that no one came to buy our produce and this responsible committee prevented dealers from coming and taking our produce. [sentence as heard] What has happened? Have we not decided? He says I did not know. All right, refer him to the court, try him. What is the reason?

The general people's committee, the specific general people's committee, its secretary, the concerned official, the bank, those in the customs, whoever obstructed this operation. [as heard] Someone had to issue an order and did not. We said that issuing an order was up to the legitimate authority. Why did you not issue the order? Our produce was left and no one came to buy it. A serious matter and discussion has to commence, and the one who has made a mistake will deserve whatever you do to him. No one will blame you. What are we here for? We are here to [words indistinct].

Maltese Prime Minister Pays Visit to Tripoli

Arrives 4 Jan

LD041448 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] The Maltese prime minister, Dr Eddie Fenech Adami, and the members of his delegation arrived in Tripoli at noon today on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. The secretary of the General People's Committee led those on hand to greet the Maltese prime minister, who was also welcomed by several members of the General People's Committee, officers of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, heads of diplomatic and political missions in the Great Jamahiriyah, and members of the Maltese Embassy staff in the Great Jamahiriyah.

The Maltese prime minister's party includes Foreign Minister Dr Vincent Tabone; Industry Minister John Dalli; the governor of the Central Bank; the director of the Energy Authority; and a number of other Maltese Government officials.

Praises 'Strong' Relations

LD041828 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1755 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] Tripoli, 4 Jan (JANA)—In a statement to JANA, Dr Eddie Fenech Adami has expressed the pleasure that he and the members of his delegation feel at visiting the Great Jamahiriyah. He said that his trip will strengthen and reinforce the existing relations of friendship and cooperation between Malta and the Great Jamahiriyah. He stressed that the Libyan Arab and Maltese peoples are linked by strong bonds, adding: We cherish these relations and are fully prepared to continue our work to bolster them.

He explained: We stress the importance of and need for contacts among the peoples of the Mediterranean. We should be close to each other. Malta believes it is important to find ways to consolidate the ties between the states and peoples of the Mediterranean so that peace in the region may be strengthened still further.

Discusses Bilateral Ties

LD042050 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1953 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] Tripoli, 4 Jan (JANA)—Talks between Libyan Arab and Maltese delegations began in Tripoli this evening. The opening session was attended by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee and the Maltese prime minister, Dr Eddie Fenech Adami. Libya was also represented by the brother secretary of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, the secretary of the General People's Committee for Industry, and the governor of the Libyan Central Bank. Present on Malta's behalf were Foreign Minister Dr Vincent Tabone, Industry Minister Mr John Dalli, the governor of the Maltese Central Bank, and the Maltese ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah.

The meeting included a review of bilateral relations in various fields and a discussion of ways to reinforce and promote them. International questions of common interest were examined as well.

Both sides have voiced their satisfaction with the level of cooperation in bilateral relations and their desire to bolster and develop those ties in the interests of the

Libyan Arab and Maltese peoples. Their views on the issues raised were in accord. Both countries highlighted their deep interest in maintaining the Mediterranean as a zone of security and peace.

The participants in the session stressed the need to guarantee the legitimate rights of the Arab people in occupied Palestine.

Received by Al-Qadhdhafi

LD052234 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has received the Maltese prime minister, Dr Eddie Fenech Adami. The Maltese prime minister was accompanied by Foreign Minister Dr Vincent Tabone, Industry Minister John Dalli, the governor of the Maltese Central Bank, and the director of the Maltese Energy Authority.

Burkinabe Leader Blaise Compaore Pays Visit

Arrives 2 Jan

LD021348 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 2 Jan 88

[Text] Captain Blaise Compaore, chairman of the Popular Front of the Burkina Jamahiriyah, arrived in Tripoli at noon today. He is leading a delegation on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud headed those on hand to greet him at Tripoli International Airport. He was accompanied by several members of the General People's Committee and a number of Libyan Armed Forces officers, heads of political and diplomatic missions to the Great Jamahiriyah, and the ambassador and staff of the embassy of the Burkina Jamahiriyah in Libya.

Meets With Al-Qadhdhafi

LD022202 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 2 Jan 88

[Excerpt] The brother leader has received Captain Blaise Compaore, chairman of the Popular Front in the Burkina Jamahiriyah. [passage omitted]

Received by Jallud

LD031358 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Text] Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud met this morning with Blaise Compaore, chairman of the Popular Front of the Burkina Jamahiriyah. The audience was also attended by Bognessan Ye, secretary general of the Burkinabe Defense Committees.

Delegations Hold Talks

LD031008 Tripoli JANA in English 0718 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Text] Tripoli, 3 Jan (JANA)—A working session between Libyan Arab and Burkinabe sides has been held at the headquarters of the External Liaison Bureau.

The session was attended by secretaries of the People's Committee for External Liaison, the General People's Committee for General Services, the General People's Committee for Planning, and the General People's Committee for Health.

On the Burkinabe side the session was attended by Jean Marc Palm, minister of foreign relations; Serge Theophile Balima, minister of information; Albert Guigma, minister of agriculture and livestock; Alain Zoubga, minister of health and social affairs; and a number of experts and technicians of both countries.

The brother secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison welcomed the Burkina delegation. He reaffirmed the importance of the visit by President Blaise Compaore, chairman of the Popular Front of the Burkina Jamahiriyah to the Great Jamahiriyah for developing and bolstering relations between the Great Jamahiriyah and the Burkina Jamahiriyah.

He praised the great development in Libyan Arab-Burkina relations, and described them as being excellent in all spheres. He said that these relations became deep-rooted and firm with the staging of the revolution in the Burkina Jamahiriyah and its joining the great Al-Fatih revolution, and their standing in one trench against imperialism, Zionism and racism.

The secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison said that the Great Jamahiriyah firmly believes that close relations and cooperation between Africans is the only guarantee for resisting conspiracies to which the African Continent is being subjected. He pointed out that the imperialist and colonialist conspiracies being encountered by the African Continent require that we all work seriously and sincerely to consolidate cooperation and cooperation between us, and liberate the African will by way of revolution.

Jean Marc Palm, minister of foreign relations in the Burkina Jamahiriyah made a speech in which he stressed the importance of relations between the Great Jamahiriyah and the Burkina Jamahiriyah countries linked by the common struggle against imperialism and domination which colonialist circles are trying to impose on the peoples of the continent. He said that the visit of President Blaise Compaore is a tangible expression of our friendly relations and a continuous assertion by the Burkina Jamahiriyah of its total commitment to resistance against imperialism, Zionism and racism.

Visit Concludes

LD032122 Tripoli JANA in English
1903 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Text] Tripoli, Ayn al-Nar [January] 3, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Capt. Blaise Compaore, the president of the Popular Front of the Jamahiriyah of Burkina Faso, and the delegation in his company left Tripoli this evening after a visit to Great Jamahiriyah.

A massive farewell party was organized for Capt. Blaise as Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud spearheaded the party seeing him off.

Also taking part in the farewell party were a number of members of the General People's Committee, officers of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces and heads of the diplomatic missions accredited to Great Jamahiriyah.

Joint Communique Issued

LD040137 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Text] A joint Libyan Arab-Burkinabe communique was issued at the end of the visit to the Great Jamahiriyah by Captain Blaise Compaore, chairman of the Popular Front in the Burkina Jamahiriyah, and the members of his delegation. Here is the text:

In line with the friendly and fraternal relations linking the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and Burkina Faso, and in affirmation of the revolutionary solidarity that exists between the great September revolution and the revolution of 4 August 1983, President Capt Blaise Compaore, leader of the Popular Front and head of state and government, accompanied by a high-level delegation, paid a friendly working visit to the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah from 12 to 13 Al-Awwal 1397 from the death of the Prophet, corresponding to 2-3 January 1988.

President Blaise Compaore and his delegation were given a warm and fraternal welcome by the leader of the great Al-Fatih revolution and the Libyan Arab people. The two delegations made an in-depth study of bilateral relations, and dealt with the general situation on the African Continent and international issues of mutual interest. They arrived at the following:

1. On the bilateral plane, the two countries discussed ways of consolidating their revolutionary relations and cooperation in various fields so as meet their common goals. On the same issue, they affirmed their anti-imperialist commitment and their firm resolve to struggle against all forms of hegemony.

The Burkinabe ministers also held productive talks and working sessions with their Libyan counterparts, and the two countries agreed that the joint cooperation committee, formed on 1 March 1983, should be more active.

2. On African issues, the two sides expressed their concern about areas of tension in Africa and the use of, or threat to use force in relations among Africans. In addition, they voiced their firm belief that this situation tends to hurt the stability and economic development of African states and the achievement of African unity.

As for the continent's problems, the two countries came out in support of the OAU's efforts to resolve these matters peacefully in an African framework, and on the basis of Africa's determination to prevent outside interference or pressure.

Turning to the situation in South Africa, both countries reiterated their condemnation of the racist regime, its illegal occupation of Namibia and part of Angola, and its repeated attacks on the Frontline States. They declared their absolute support for the liberation movement in South Africa and for the Frontline States, which are victims of armed attacks and destabilization by the South African racist regime.

In addition, the two states noted the need to step up the struggle so as to accelerate the liquidation of apartheid and racial segregation in this part of the continent, and to speed the process of the Namibian independence in accordance with Security Council Resolution 435.

In their general study of economic conditions in Africa, the two parties agreed that active efforts must be made to bolster African solidarity and cooperation. This, in turn, will make it possible to reach the goals outlined in the Lagos Plan of Action. In their discussion of the difficulties posed by Africa's foreign debt, the two sides expressed concern at the aggravation of this problem. They agreed that the best answer would be for the African states to control their own natural wealth and resources and for a new international economic order, one that is just and equal, to be established.

3. The Middle East: In their study of the Middle East problem, the two countries expressed their deep concern over the situation in the occupied Arab territories. They voiced their absolute support for the recovery of the Palestinian people's national right, under the leadership of their sole legitimate representative, the PLO, with special emphasis on their right to self-determination. They condemned the acts committed by Zionist forces against Arabs in the occupied territories.

Recognizing their sacred and inalienable right to their homeland, occupied Palestine, they reaffirmed their solidarity with the Arab people in general and the Palestinian Arab people in particular in their fight for a just and comprehensive settlement of the Palestine question. They called on those who love peace and justice, especially the revolutionary and progressive forces of Africa and the world, to back the Palestinian people's uprising and to expose, by various means and at every level, the repressive methods employed by the Zionist enemy.

4. The Struggle Between Iraq and Iran: Both countries expressed regret at the continued fighting between brothers in Iraq and Iran. They appealed to both sides to abandon the use of force, and to turn to peaceful means to solve their differences.

The talks took place in a frank and fraternal atmosphere of mutual understanding.

Comrade Blaise Compaore, chairman of the Popular Front and head of state and government, expressed his deep satisfaction and thanks to Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the great Al-Fatih revolution and the Libyan Arab people, for the warm and fraternal welcome and the African hospitality which he and his delegation received during their stay in the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

Comrade Blaise Compaore, chairman of the Popular Front and head of state and government in Burkina Faso, invited Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the great Al-Fatih revolution, to pay an official visit to Burkina Faso. The brother colonel accepted the invitation with pleasure, and the date of his trip will be fixed later.

Dated: Tripoli, 13 Jamad al-Awwal 1397 from the death of the Prophet, corresponding to 3 January 1988.

Sudanese Peace Appeals Termed 'Practical'

LD032046 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1850 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Text] Khartoum, 3 Jan (JANA)—Sudanese Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi made a speech on 1 January calling on African states, especially those whose relations are marked by conflicts and other problems, to try to lessen their disputes.

The Great Jamahiriyah believes that Africans should conduct their own affairs, and is confident of their ability to solve their own problems and halt foreign interference on the continent.

The Great Jamahiriyah backs this proposal, which it sees as a practical way for the African countries to face the conflicts sustained by the wishes of forces opposed to the continent's security and stability. Indeed, it views the will of the African states as the only basis for a solution to these disputes.

Morocco

Jerusalem Committee Emergency Meeting Reported

Hassan Criticizes U.S.

LD060211 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 5 Jan 88

["Text" of speech by King Hassan II delivered at the beginning of the extraordinary session of the Jerusalem Committee in Ifrane on 5 January—recorded]

[Excerpts] Praise be to God and prayers and peace be on our master the Prophet and his family and followers.

Brother members of the Jerusalem Committee: For years, our committee has constituted an integrated team, a group which is solid and harmonious in its policies and aims, in spite of what we realized during the recent years of some conflicts [words indistinct] but strategy, which goes along with work and action. We can always see in the feelings of this group's members that they are always strongly committed to Islamic values, whether they are Arabs or non-Arabs. [passage omitted]

I will not express my personal feelings and pain at seeing the dispersed children, women, and elderly becoming the victims of violence, with no mercy being shown to them by the superpowers, especially one of the greatest superpowers, the one which fought to liberate the world, to liberate people from Nazism and fascism, and at whose side Morocco fought.

This is the basis of my address to the United States, which has been our friend for a very long time, a close friend and faithful friend, but I say to it: Our soldiers and your soldiers were martyred in the thousands and hundreds of thousands to liberate the human race. Your comments of yesterday cannot but cause surprise because you are denying the principles for which your sons and our sons died. [passage omitted]

I believe that we have to take a new step, one which I have thought about this evening. We have all found common ground concerning the Arab-Israeli problem. We met in Fez and approved a plan which was unanimously approved. Now every Arab has a guide for the road, and whenever he is asked he has the text to reply. I am afraid that we might have confused the cause of Jerusalem and the Arab-Palestinian-Israeli problem. This confusion, I think, (?could) delay solving the Jerusalem problem.

This is because in this committee—and in the ICO—there are Islamic non-Arab countries which have political theories regarding Israel, but their faith is solid as far as Jerusalem is concerned. Therefore, I propose the following: This committee, or the Islamic countries' foreign ministers who will meet in Amman in March, I believe this committee could draw up a plan to be submitted to the Islamic countries foreign ministers [words indistinct] and they could convince all those of non-Islamic faith of this project and they could mobilize the widest possible support for the Muslims and for the cause of Jerusalem.

This is a proposal which I leave to you and hope, if you approve of it, that you will give us your theory and your reply, either directly or though the ICO secretary general. As for myself, in all honesty I frankly believe that this is quite necessary, because, strategically speaking, if we are united on the Jerusalem issue, then we will force the enemy to open the doors of dialogue [words indistinct].

The enemy will never be able to escape from dialogue on Jerusalem and the issue of Jerusalem. [sentence indistinct]. The enemy addressed the world saying that he does not accept a peaceful solution, that he is not ready for dialogue, discussion, or questions.

Before concluding this address, I send our thanks and appreciation to the ICO secretary general for his efforts on behalf of the ICO and the Jerusalem Committee. [passage omitted].

Proceedings Reported

LD060310 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] [Passage indistinct] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Prayers and peace be upon our master Muhammad and his family; Yes, O master, God cherishes you.

The Jerusalem Committee held an emergency meeting in Ifrane, Morocco on Tuesday, 5 January 1988, at the request of His Majesty King Hassan II, the sovereign of the Moroccan Kingdom and chairman of the Jerusalem Committee, in order to look into the despicable methods of repression which the Palestinian people are facing in the wake of the huge uprising being witnessed by holy Jerusalem and the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, and which has extended to include all the Palestinian and Arab occupied territories.

This meeting was attended by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and delegations of the states which are members of the committee, with the exception of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Syrian Arab Republic. The meeting was also attended by ICO Secretary General Shariffudin Pirzada.

His Majesty King Hassan II, the chairman of the Jerusalem Committee, opened the proceedings of the meeting with a speech in which he explained the reasons for convening an emergency session of the Jerusalem Committee and outlined the contribution of Moroccan soldiers in defending the freedom and pride of man against Nazism and racism at the side of the Allies' soldiers. His majesty said:

[Begin recording] [Word indistinct] that I advise the brothers that the summary of the speech and its contents must be put before the whole committee, the formulation committee, [words indistinct] this one has said, the other has said, and the other has said, everyone is going to participate in it, you are going to work a bit late at night, however, [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Then he said:

The Jerusalem Committee, following with great interest and strong anxiety developments in the dangerous situation in holy Jerusalem and the other occupied Palestinian territories:

Affirms its condemnation of the Israeli occupation of Palestinian and Arab territories, including holy Jerusalem, and believes that continuing this occupation will constitute a dangerous violation of the rights and basic liberties of the Palestinian man;

Second, it strongly condemns the inhuman Zionist policies and practices against the Arab inhabitants in the occupied Palestinian territories, represented by evacuations, expulsions, mass murder, arrests, property seizures, violation of the sanctity and desecration of the holy places, and so forth, and calls on the international community to open investigations under UN auspices and the International Red Cross in order to define the dimensions of the horrible crimes which Israel is committing against the Arab people in Palestine, and work to end them;

Third, the Jerusalem Committee hails the Palestinian Arab people and expresses its pride in their uprising; it calls on the ICO to intensify its support for the Palestinian Arab people inside the occupied homeland, politically and materially, in order to strengthen their ability to steadfastly resist occupation and its racist practices;

It calls on the ICO to use all its influence and friendships in the international community to make every suitable effort as well as political and diplomatic contacts among states and international and regional organizations to begin pressuring the occupation authorities to abide by the Geneva Convention of 1949 and international resolutions in this respect, as well as the principles of the International Human Rights Declaration in dealing with civilian inhabitants in time of war in the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories;

It calls for setting up Islamic committees in all parts of the Islamic world in order to express solidarity with the Palestinian people as well as presenting material and moral assistance in order to consolidate their revolution, so as to be able to liberate their homeland and achieve self-determination;

It calls on the councils of Islamic ambassadors in the capitals of the whole world to make urgent contacts with the official, party, and popular organizations as well as the media in the countries they are accredited to by urging them to denounce and condemn these Zionist practices and call for ending them;

It calls on Islamic information institutions to intensify coverage of the news of the popular uprising in occupied Palestine and to comment on it in a way that will serve to enlighten Islamic public opinion and acquaint it with the realities of the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories;

It expresses its consideration for all the states, international organizations, and groups that have taken the initiative to condemn the Israeli repressive measures and have worked to publicize them before international

public opinion in an official and public way, and calls on them to continue and intensify this condemnation and put the necessary pressure on the Israeli occupation authorities to end these measures;

It calls on the international community to take all possible measures to support the Palestinian people's effort to regain their legitimate rights and affirms that Jerusalem [words indistinct] as long as Palestine's cause, the first cause of the Muslims and the essence of the Mideast conflict, is not settled in a comprehensive and just way which guarantees that the Palestinian people will regain their national inalienable rights, including their right to their homeland Palestine, their right to return there to regain their possessions, as well as their right to self-determination without any foreign interference, and the rights to freely practice sovereignty on the land of their homeland, on the natural resources in it, their right to establish an independent and sovereign state in Palestine with its capital, the city of holy Jerusalem, under the leadership of its sole, legitimate representative the PLO;

It calls for urgently holding an international peace conference on the Middle East under UN auspices, in which all the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the PLO, and the five permanent member states of the UN Security Council would participate on equal footing.

Friday, 8 January, will be declared a day of Islamic solidarity with the Palestinian struggle, and calls for devoting the Friday sermon in all the mosques of the Islamic world on that day to talk about this uprising, about the pains of the people of Palestine, their sufferings and steadfastness, and to perform the prayer for the deceased who were buried previously or abroad, in compassion with the souls of martyrs on the same day.

It calls on the Islamic governments to take the necessary measures for organizing a campaign for donating the wages of a day's work in an expression of solidarity with the Palestinian people's uprising;

It decides to address its messages to the UN secretary general and to the chairman of the UN Security Council [words indistinct] its call for urgent intervention to end the Zionist practices against the defenseless sons of the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories and to adopt deterrent measures against the Israeli entity, and to impose sanctions against it in accordance with section seven of the UN Charter;

It agrees to the setting up of a committee from its members which will be chosen by his majesty, the chairman of the Jerusalem Committee, to contact the UN secretary general and the permanent members of the UN Security Council in order to brief them on developments in the occupied Palestinian territories and to call on them to [word indistinct] UN Security Council Resolution 605, including guaranteeing the necessary protection to the Palestinian citizens under the occupation.

The committee expresses its great consideration and deep satisfaction to its chairman, His Majesty King Hassan II, for his efforts. [passage indistinct]

Saudi Foreign Minister Departs

LD060325 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal left Fez-Sais airport tonight after attending the proceedings of the emergency meeting of the Jerusalem Committee.

Filali on Nonrenewal of EEC Fishing Accord

LD011320 Rabat MAP in English 1200 GMT 1 Jan 88

[Text] Rabat Jan 1.-(MAP)—Morocco has decided not to prorogate the provisional accord of August, 1, 1987, linking Morocco and the EEC in fisheries areas, Moroccan Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Abdellatif Filali said here Thursday.

At a meeting with the press, Filali said that the community has made no proposal to the Moroccan side for the continuation of the fisheries accord, and that Morocco has asked the European trawlers and ships fishing in the Moroccan waters to withdraw and head for their registration ports on Thursday, December, 31, 1987 at midnight.

He also said that no grace days were granted to the EEC pending the conclusion of a new accord. Negotiations for a new accord were started a month ago and might be carried on on January 4 and 5 in Rabat, Filali said specifying that they were held in good conditions in spite of some difficulties and diverging interests.

The EEC side has noted the Moroccan concern over safeguarding Morocco's [word indistinct] resources for the development of the country, he went on.

Relatedly, Filali earlier sent a letter to European Commissioner in Charge of Fisheries Antonio Cardoso e Cunha asking him to notify "the Community fleet fishing units operating in the Moroccan waters that they must join their registration ports this evening (Thursday's) at midnight".

The Moroccan minister expressed in the letter Morocco's readiness to carry on the negotiations "as soon as the community instances would submit concrete proposals to reach a balanced and mutually beneficial accord".

"Pending this, Filali added, I remind you that the transitional accord on fisheries between Morocco and the EEC agreed on on August 1st, 1987, expires today, December 31 at midnight".

The Moroccan delegation, headed by Secretary of State in Charge of Relations with the EEC Mohamed Sekkat, returned to Morocco Thursday afternoon after the two

parties stopped their fourth round of talks. The two sides started their negotiations on December 2 and were held in four rounds, two in Brussels and two in Rabat.

Morocco and the EEC were to reach a fisheries agreement after the expiration on July of the one signed between Morocco and Spain in 1983. The two parties failed to reach an agreement at that time agreeing on a provisional one lasting for the last five months of 1987.

Sudan

Egypt's Wali, Delegation Begin Visit 31 Dec

NC311232 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1205 GMT 31 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Khartoum, 31 Dec (MENA)—An Egyptian delegation led by Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister, minister of agriculture, and NDP secretary general, arrived in Khartoum this morning to congratulate Sudan on the occasion of its independence day celebrations.

The delegation includes Assistant Defense Minister Major General Mahfuz Hamdi and Major General 'Abd al-Mun'im Sa'id, chairman of the Armed Forces operations staff, who will be holding military talks with Sudanese military leaders. [passage omitted]

Dr Wali said on arrival that during this visit he will have discussions with a number of Sudanese leaders to study the situation and all the issues together. He stressed that relations between Egypt and Sudan remain eternal and will get stronger as the years go by. [passage omitted]

Joint-Ethiopian Committee To Meet in Khartoum

JN051242 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1034 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] Khartoum, 5 Jan (SUNA)—The newspaper AL-SIYASAH issued here today said that Sudan and Ethiopia have agreed to hold the meetings of the joint committee, which is scheduled to begin its work tomorrow, in Khartoum. The paper said the required arrangements have been set to provide an appropriate climate and circumstances to enable the two sides to reach reconciliation and accord on all unresolved issues between the two countries in a manner that would entrench the principle of good-neighborliness, noninterference in internal affairs, and joint cooperation in the service of the interests of the two countries and the African region.

The newspaper quoted Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi as saying that current circumstances are appropriate for a serious joint action by the two countries to settle their controversial disputes and to gear their efforts toward promoting bilateral relations. The prime minister added that the preparatory consultations for the joint comittee's meetings have brought viewpoints closer.

Preparatory contacts took place between the two sides, during which agreement was reached on the date of the joint committee's meetings. Sudan proposed that Ethiopia choose one from among six African countries as the venue.

It is noteworthy that Al-Mahdi and Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam agreed on setting up the joint committee during a meeting in Kampala early last month.

Al-Mahdi Issues Peace Appeal to Ethiopia, Chad

JN031026 Khartoum SUNA in English 0940 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Text] Khartoum Jan 3, (SUNA)—The Sudanese Premier Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has appealed to all war torn neighbouring countries to refrain from violence and realize regional peace.

In a speech marking Sudan's 32nd national day anniversary last Friday [1 January], Al-Mahdi urged the neighbouring [as received] to work in the direction of regional peace stability and development. Al-Mahdi's appeal was apparently directed to Ethiopia and Chad which border Sudan on the east and the west.

"I appeal to all neighbours who are engaged in armed conflicts that our nations are looking forward to renaissance and development so let us draw up an overall agreement which will close the doors of violence and establish a regional just peace, he said. [no closing quote as received]

He said the agreement will have as objectives the achievement of stability development of cooperation and prevention of foreign interference in the affairs of the region.

Al-Mahdi, although he stressed his government's keenness to peacefully solve Sudanese internal question, he made it clear that Sudan would continue defending its territories against internal and foreign plots.

Al-Mahdi Discusses Parties, Border Towns, Laws

JN041747 Khartoum SUNA in English 1715 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] Khartoum Jan 4 (SUNA)—Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi said his government will adopt a bill for registering the political parties in the country to protect the democratical system and unity of the country and said that measures will be taken against foreign tolls [as received] and fifth column to protect Sudan from their subversive acts.

Al-Mahdi was quoted by the daily AL-SIYASAH Monday as saying that, the peace steps to solve the southern Sudan question have not stopped and that the liberating of the border towns of Kurmuk and Qaysan will help the efforts being exerted for reaching peace in the country.

Al-Mahdi said, the United States has stood beside the Sudan's right on Kurmuk and also a number of European and Arab countries have done the same.

On the substitute laws which scheduled to replace the shari'a laws of September 1983 Al-Mahdi noted out that alternative laws will be conlcuded within two months.

AL-ITTIHAD Interviews Al-Mahdi on South

JN031825 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 2 Jan 88 pp 3, 8

[By Al-Fatih al-Tijani]

[Text] Khartoum—Sudanese Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has expressed optimism over the convening of the constitutional conference to discuss Sudan's national problems in the near future.

In a statement to AL-ITTIHAD, he asserted that the London negotiations between government officials and Garang movement's representatives have achieved some progress. He denied the presence of Egyptian mediation between his government and Ethiopia, describing the Egyptian efforts as limited to arranging a meeting between the two countries' officials.

Al-Mahdi asserted that his country did not receive Egyptian assistance in the battle to recapture Sudanese territory occupied by the Garang movement with Ethiopian support. He attacked the National Islamic Front [NIF] and the Sudanese Communist Party, saying some of their political practices create an atmosphere for military adventures.

In his statement to AL-ITTIHAD, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi said the southern problem is a legitimate political issue and that its resolution should be a democratic political one. He added: Those who talk about a military decision neither recognize the presence of a problem nor believe anything requires a democratic political solution.

He asserted that his government still seeks to hold the constitutional conference, since it is the main forum to consider the country's major issues. He stressed the possibiliy of convening it soon if the Sudanese problem is excluded from issues contributing to tension and polarization in neighboring countries. He said the Sudanese people can reach a just settlement of their major issues.

Asked whether his optimism over the possibility of holding this conference is linked to the recent London negotiations by the minister of state for defense affairs, Fadlallah Nasir, and government military officials with Garang movement representatives, Al-Mahdi said that what happened in London had provided an opprtunity to listen to the other party's viewpoint and some progress had been achieved.

The Garang movement emphasized that it does not oppose the implementation of the Islamic laws if southerners and non-Muslims are exempted from them and if rights of citizenship are secured for all Sudanese people of all religions. Moreover, the Garang representatives admitted that the Koka Dam declaration was not joined by some influential political organizations and that this declaration should be reconsidered. In addition, the Garang representatives agreed that the termination of the state of emergency should be coupled with a ceasefire.

Regarding Egyptian mediation to end the tension between Sudan and Ethiopia and tackle the southern problem, Al-Mahdi said: Actually, there has been no mediation. Egypt proposed that the two sides meet to discuss bilateral problems. Ethiopia and Sudan welcomed this proposal, and the two sides met in the Ugandan capital, Kampala. The Egyptian role ended with this meeting.

Replying to a question by AL-ITTIHAD on the absence of an Egyptian role during the battle to recapture the town of Kurmuk on the eastern border and whether this was linked to the cancelation of the joint defense pact by Al-Mahdi, he asserted that Egypt did not extend any military aid to Sudan. He added that the countries that supported the Sudanese stand did not do so because of agreements with Sudan but because they had responded to Sudan's call for support against the aggression to which it had been subjected.

He said the Sudanese Armed Forces recaptured the town of Kurmuk on their own before the equipment given by some Arab countries had arrived. He added that this aid will promote the Sudanese Armed Forces' efficiency in the future.

Replying to a question by AL-ITTIHAD on the exchange of attacks between the NIF and the Sudanese Communist Party, Al-Mahdi said the NIF tries to distinguish beween the civil authorities and the Armed Forces and that it seeks to incite the Armed Forces in an attempt to create an atmosphere for a military coup. Al-Mahdi also assailed the Communist Party, saying some of its practices create an atmosphere incompatible with democracy.

He cited as an example the Communist Party's lenient stand toward the rebel movement and its exploitation of some leftist trade unions in party activities. Al-Mahdi said the verdicts against the Communists accused of espionage for the Garang movement will be left for the judicial authorities after concluding the ongoing questioning of those who have been arrested.

'Outlaw' Surrenders; Captured Ethiopians Talk

JN031454 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1415 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Text] Al-Damazin, 3 Jan (SUNA)—An outlaw surrendered yesterday to the Armed Forces, now in control of Kurmuk. The outlaw made serious confessions, disclosing secrets about the political approach, training, and

armaments of the rebel movement. He is still under interrogation in Karmak, from where he will be transferred to Al-Damazin shortly.

Meanwhile, two Ethiopian prisoners today disclosed further details of the extent of foreign involvement in the aggression against Kurmuk and Qaysan and the backing received by the outlaws. The two Ethiopians were captured with their personal weapons in the battle that led to the recapture of Qaysan. They are a 26-year-old regular soldier in the Eghiopian Army and a 19-year-old student, who was drafted against his will.

Al-Mirghani Discusses Egypt, Rebels, Gulf War

NC011738 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1350 GMT
1 Jan 88

[Text] Khartoum, 1 Jan (MENA)—Ahmad al-Mirghani, chairman of the Sudanese State Council, has said that he is in constant touch with Jordan's King Husayn, in his capacity as president of the Arab summit conference, on the issue of the return of Egypt to the Arab League.

In statements to Egyptian journalists in Khartoum, Al-Mirghani said that Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi and a group of legal counselors are studying means of restoring Egypt to the Arab League. He affirmed Sudan's desire that Egypt resume its role in the Arab League, stating that his speech at the Arab summit conference in Amman had stressed this.

Al-Mirghani pointed out that Egypt and Sudan are coordinating through a joint committee on the Nile River to deal with the drop in the river's water level, noting that there was a decrease in the Nile water this year due to a shortage of rainfall.

On the situation in southern Sudan, Al-Mirghani said that there is no war in the south, but there are renegades and a rebel movement. The Sudanese Armed Forces, he added, are carrying out their duty to preserve the citizens' lives and property so they can live a normal life in peace and security.

Al-Mirghani stated that Sudan is proposing a political solution through a constitutional nationalist conference to resolve the problem of the south because Sudan does not believe a military solution is the right way to resolve the problem. He said: Proceeding from this viewpoint, I appeal to the brothers, both in the north and the south, and to all political key figures to come to the constitutional conference with open hearts and minds.

Al-Mirghani noted that the general mobilization called for by Sudan several weeks ago was not intended for war. This act was designed to restore discipline in all walks of life, especially after 16 years of dictatorial rule. He pointed out that Sudan is currently reorganizing all public facilities and utilities, and is urging the public to achieve more production. Al-Mirghani said: We are seeking to improve relations with our neighbors, and we will continue our mobilization in Sudan for reconstruction purposes. We desire peace in order to rebuild Sudan and better defend its territory against any foreign aggression.

He added that silence about any aggression constitutes negligence of the homeland, saying: We are still holding the olive branch. We are not speaking of war, rather, we want peace.

Al-Mirghani called for an immediate halt to the Gulf war and for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598, adding: Our stand toward this war is obvious and explicit. We reject aggression, support the Arab countries, and back [word indistinct].

Al-Mirghani Criticizes Egyptian Media Coverage

JN031216 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1040 GMT
3 Jan 88

[Text] Khartoum, 3 Jan (SUNA)—State Council Chairman Ahmad al-Mirghani has blamed the Egyptian news media and press for their failure to highlight and cover Sudan's stands under the canopy of the current democracy which is being practised in all aspects of internal and external policies of Sudan.

During a meeting with pressmen yesterday published by today's issue of AL-USBU', Al-Mirghani referred to the total failure of the Egyptian news media and press to convey the facts to the Egyptian public.

Al-Mirghani said that the relations between the two countries—governments and peoples—are strong and firm. He added that this makes it imperative to see the Egyptian news media initiate campaigns reflecting these strong and firm ties. On signing the Sudan Charter, Al-Mirghani said in his press conferecne that the two coalition parties will sign this charter on Friday [8 January].

As for Sudan's stand toward the Gulf war, he pointed out that Sudan has made its policy toward the Arab world clear. He added that the only solution deemed appropriate by Sudan is the one that can be attained through implementing Resolution No 598 which calls for an immediate end to the war.

In another development, Al-Mirghani revealed the objectives and motives behind launching the general mobilization in the country. He indicated that it was prompted by a desire to confer a spirit of public discipline on Sudan's life and to revive and restructure public institutions. He said it was also to encourage the citizen to be more productive. He affirmed the inevitability of continuing this mobilization so that these objectives can be achieved.

On the Ethiopian aggression against Sudan, Al-Mirghani indicated in his press conference that evidence has proven beyond any doubt that the military steps taken in

the country were dictated by a sense of duty. He added that the failure to perform this duty is tantamount ot the shirking of duty by the supreme commander of the Armed Forces.

Al-Mirghani reiterated to the Egyptian press [as received] yesterday that what is taking place in southern Sudan is not a war but a rebellion. He added that Sudan continues to extend the olive branch to help achieve peace. In this regard, he appealed to the political groups in both southern and northern Sudan to initiate moves in order to prepare for the constitutional conference.

On the refugee problem created by the incidents in the country, Al-Mirghani pointed out that the refugee problem is the result of the flagrant aggression beign perpetrated by the outlaws.

Islamic Front Wins University Elections

JN021044 Khartoum SUNA in English 1020 GMT 2 Jan 88

[Text] Khartoum, Jan 2 (SUNA)—The Islamic Front, an affiliate of the Islamic National Front "INF", has won yesterday all the 30 seats of Cairo University Khartoum branch Students Union.

The Islamic Front has won the Students Union against the alliance of some political factions comprising the Democratic Front, the Nasirists, Ba'thists, the Ummah Party and the Democratic Unionist Party.

Nearly 8 thousand students out of 10 thousand have casted vote in the elections, the Islamic Front scored 53.62 percent out of the voters. [sentence as received]

Tunisia

UK Interior Minister Hurd Meets Officials

Talks With Counterpart

LD041745 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] A working session was held this morning at the Interior Ministry headquarters under the chairmanship of Interior Minister Habib Ammar and his British counterpart, Douglas Hurd.

Mr Habib Ammar stressed the positive level of friendly and cooperative relations between Tunisia and Britain, explaining that the bases of cooperation between the two ministries were founded in the seventies and that the two sides have benefited from that. He stressed the importance of this meeting in enhancing existing cooperation and the necessity of raising the level of cooperation to that of traditional all-around internal relations.

Mr Douglas Hurd expressed his satisfaction at visiting Tunisia, which is the first country outside Europe he has visited as interior minister. He also expressed his ministry's readiness to help in the training and equipment fields.

The two sides agreed that the current major security problems cannot be confronted on the internal level only, but require bilateral or multipartite cooperation.

The session continued within the framework of a special committee on each side to discuss fields of cooperation and how to initiate them.

Meets Mestiri, Baccouche

LD051959 Tunis TAP in French 1548 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Tunis, 5 Jan (TAP)—Tunisian Interior Minister Habib Ammar and his British counterpart, Mr Douglas Hurd, chaired a working session on Monday at the headquarters of the Interior Ministry.

Taking part were Mr Chedli Neffati, secretary of state to the minister of the interior; senior officials at the Ministry; members of the delegation accompanying the British minister on his visit to Tunisia; and the ambassadors of the two countries. [passage omitted]

Mr Hurd was also received during the afternoon by Mr Mahmoud Mestiri, minister of foreign affairs. At the end of the meeting, the British guest pointed out in a statement to the TAP agency that he had informed the minister of foreign affairs of his government's intention to strengthen its ties of cooperation with Tunisia.

He added that during the morning he had begun identifying areas of action and that the two sides also undertook an analysis of the situation in the Middle East.

The British minister was finally received at the government palace at the Kasbah by the Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche. Mr Hurd pointed out in a statement to the TAP agency that the conversation dealt with the appropirate means of stimulating cooperation between Tunisia and Great Britain and of raising it to the level of the friendship that links the two countries.

Baccouche Meets With Libyan Representative

LD030614 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0000 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Text] Mr Hedi Baccouche, the prime minister, had talks yesterday evening at the government palace at the Kasbah with Mr 'Abd al-Ati al-Ubaydi, the permanent representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah at the Arab League, who was accompanied by [name indistinct], the assistant secretary of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriayh.

Kuwait

Secretary Carlucci Continues Official Visit

LD051850 Kuwait KUNA in English 1630 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 5 (KUNA)—U.S. Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci Tuesday described here Kuwaiti-American relations as being excellent, and affirmed Washington's continued commitment to Kuwaiti national security.

Carlucci told a news conference held at the American Embassy this evening "that the current level of Kuwaiti-American cooperation is adequate to meet the threat."

The American defense secretary, on the second day of an official visit here as part of a Gulf tour, pointed out that he "had very productive" talks with H.H. the amir, H.H. the Crown Prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, Defense Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah and Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifa al-Adbi al-Sabah.

The exchanges, the top American official went on, covered the wide-range of bilateral and regional issues, particularly the situation in the Arabian Gulf area and the Iran-Iraq war.

Carlucci emphasized the massive U.S. naval presence in the Arabian Gulf is committed to "escorting and defending all U.S. flag vessels including former Kuwaiti tankers now under U.S. registry."

Asked if he had discussed any contingency plans with Kuwaiti officials he replied that "it would be foolish to comment on any contingency plan in public because it would give the adversary advanced knowledge of your plans."

Without going into details, Carlucci pointed out that the U.S. and Kuwait had worked out mutual arrangements in the framework of current international efforts to safeguard freedom of navigation in the Gulf.

But responding to a question from KUNA, he denied the U.S. Government has exploited the current escalation in the tanker war to seek military bases or facilities from the Arab Gulf states.

"The U.S. has no desire for military bases or facilities, and our shipping protection role in the Gulf has been much appreciated by Kuwaiti officials," Carlucci stressed.

And he denied there has been a change in the rule of engagement for American warships in the Gulf. "The rules of engagement are still the same. American warships are authorized to defend themselves against hostile action," Carlucci pointed out.

Replying to a question, Carlucci described recent Soviet proposals for the setting up of a U.N. task force in the Arabian Gulf as both "vague and inappropriate at this time."

Instead, the American official strongly urged the Soviet Union to back the current international efforts to draft a second Security Council resolution ordering a universal mandatory arms embargo on Iran following its non-compliance with Council Resolution 598 that had ordered a ceasefire in the Gulf war.

The American defense secretary asserted that an international arms embargo on Iran should take precedence on the Soviet proposal for setting up a U.N. task force in the Arabian Gulf.

Turning to the almost-month long Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab lands Carlucci expressed the U.S. Government concern about Israeli use of weapons against the unarmed Palestinian civilians demanding an end to the Israeli occupation of their homeland.

But when he was reminded that the U.S. stood at odds with the rest of the world in refusing to approve a Security Council resolution criticizing Israeli handling of the situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the American defense secretary did not comment.

Carlucci said Washington's strong ties with Israel, particularly the strategic military agreement, do not exclude progress in America's ties with the Arab world.

Replying to a question, Carlucci denied reports that a ranking Iranian envoy had met in Washington last month with senior American officials on a possible deal to free American hostages held by pro-Iranian Lebanese groups.

"This is not true," the American official remarked.

Asked why the U.S. Government had refused to sell Kuwait anti-aircraft Stinger missiles, on the case of Bahrain, had attached strings to a seven million dollar Stingers deal, while supply the same weapons to Afghan rebels, Carlucci replied: "The U.S. is always ready to sell arms to Arab states. But sometimes this takes [words indistinct] reasons."

USSR's Brutents Arrives on 2-Day Visit

LD052156 Kuwait KUNA in English 1829 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 5 (KUNA)—Deputy chairman of the International Relations Bureau at the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party Karen Brutents arrived here tonight on a two-day official visit to Kuwait.

Brutents will meet with H.H. the amir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, H.H. the Crown Prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah and Deputy Premier Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad.

He will have talks as well with Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Sulayman al-Shahin on regional issues, the Gulf war and means of implementing the Security Council's Resolution 598 to end the conflict.

In (?arrival statements) to reporters, Brutents said he will acquaint the Kuwaiti leadership with the result of the Soviet-US summit and will discuss the latest development in the Gulf region.

Hoping the war would end soon as this is a major concern of Soviet leadership, Brutents reiterated the Soviet stand that the UN secretary general has not completed his mission yet. He added that Moscow has agreed on discussing a resolution to follow the Resolution No 598, provided it be within the context of implementing the above mentioned resolution to give the UN secretary general enough time to finalize this task.

He also reiterated the Soviet proposal over replacement of foreign fleets in the Gulf with a UN fleet as this would have positive results than keeping a US fleet in the Gulf waters.

Brutents condemned the Israeli oppressive acts against the Palestinian people and expressed his country's opposition to deportation by Israel of Palestinian citizens, noting that the Soviet Union will be one of the first countries to put an end to such repressive acts.

Received by Amir

LD060950 Kuwait KUNA in English 0904 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 6 (KUNA)—H.H. the amir Wednesday received the deputy chairman of the International Relations Bureau at the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party Karen Brutents.

Brutents conveyed a message to H.H. the amir from the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Undersecretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin and Soviet ambassador to Kuwait.

'Arafat Arrives on Visit, Makes Statement

LD020920 Kuwait KUNA in English 0802 GMT 2 Jan 88

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 2 (KUNA)—PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, currently on a visit to Kuwait, will address a mass rally here this evening marking the 23rd anniversary of the start of armed Palestinian struggle against Israel's occupation.

'Arafat arrived here last night from Baghdad and was received at the airport by Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Khalid al-Jasir, Director of the PLO Office 'Awni Battash and an official from the Foreign Ministry's protocol department.

In an arrival statement, the Palestinian leader hailed the Palestinian mass uprising against the oppressive Israeli occupation and their legendary steadfastness against the atrocious enemy.

He renewed his appeal upon the Lebanese Amal Movement to stop the camps war against refugee camps so that all guns can be turned against the Israeli enemy.

'Arafat vowed the fight will continue unabated 'despite the enemy's resources and the unlimited support it gets from its allies in the U.S. Administration until occupation is finally removed from our sacred national soil.'

Addressing Palestinian masses inside the occupied land, the PLO chief noted that 'stones of the land of Palestine are brandished as a national weapon in the face of Israel's military and its iron-first policy everywhere in the (occupied) West Bank, Gaza, Galilee, the triangle and the Negev.'

He promised to pursue efforts with the Lebanese national and Islamic forces as well as those in Amal Movement 'with the aim of ending the camps war tragedy so that Palestinian and Lebanese guns can be directed towards the common enemy.'

Received by Amir

LD031552 Kuwait KUNA in English 1345 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 3 (KUNA)—Visiting Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization Yasir 'Arafat Sunday was received here by His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad.

'Arafat was later received by His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah.

Deputy speaker of the Palestine National Council, parliament in exile, Salim al-Za'nun head of the PLO's office here 'Awni Battash were present.

Comments on Visit, Departs

LD031601 Kuwait KUNA in English 1504 GMT 3 Jan 87

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 3 (KUNA)—Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization Yasir 'Arafat Sunday left here concluding a two-day visit during which he met with His Highness the Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad and His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'id al-'Abdallah.

'Arafat told reporters upon leaving here today that he had expressed appreciation of Kuwait's efforts to support the Palestinian people at all levels.

The Palestinian leader said he is impressed of his highness the amir's initiative, as chairman of the Islamic Organization Conference, for his contacts at the Arab, Islamic and international levels concerning the Palestinian upheaval inside the occupied territories.

'Arafat also expressed appreciation of the outcome of the eighth summit of the Gulf Cooperation Council states held in Riyadh last week which supported the Palestinian uprising.

The discussions with his highness the amir and his highness the crown prince and prime minister, he said, had also touched on the Gulf war and the need for efforts to force Iran to implement the U.N. Resolution 598 which ordered an immediate ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war.

On the PLO's next move the [as received] enhance the international support of the Palestinian upheaval, 'Arafat noted that it is important to ensure the continuation of the international drive to expose the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian lands.

He added that the Palestinian people will continue their struggle until victory is achieved despite the brutal Israeli practices against them.

He said the PLO is pursuing continuous contacts with all concerned organizations including the United Nations, the Non-Aligned Movement, the communist states, the Islamic Countries and the African nations, to enlist their support.

Concerning the recent Israeli decision to expel a number of Palestinians to neighboring countries, 'Arafat said he had received guarantees [as received] from Syria, Jordan, and Egypt that they will not accept any Palestinian.

The Israeli plot will not be carried out, 'Arafat said, adding that "the brothers in Lebanon, Jordan, and Egypt have insisted on preventing such a dangerous step."

Chairman of the PLO said the Palestinian government in exile is a new-old subject. He noted that the Executive Committee and the PLO's other bodies are pursuing continuous studying of the issue.

"If the Palestinian leadership find that the subject would push the struggle process forward, the decision will be taken at the appropriate time," 'Arafat said.

The issue of establishing a Palestinian government in exile is currently on the agenda of the Palestine National Council, parliament in exile, he pointed out, noting that the PLO Executive Committee is awaiting answers.

Syrian Vice President Arrives on 'Short' Visit

LD060944 Kuwait KUNA in English 0805 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 6 (KUNA)—Syrian Vice President 'Abdal-Halim Khaddam Wednesday arrived here on a short visit to the country.

Khaddam was received by His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah and Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad and other Kuwaiti officials.

The Syrian vice president is accompanied by a delegation including Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

Al-Sabah on Support for Egypt, Palestinians

LD041456 Kuwait KUNA in English 1348 GMT 4 Jan 88

[By Salem Nazzal]

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 4 (KUNA)—Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad Monday sounded concern over Israel's decision to deport nine Palestinians and said Arab and international contacts were under way to foil the Zionist design.

Shaykh Sabah warned against the seriousness of the Israeli move, saying deportation and other brutal oppressive measures against Arabs of the occupied territories were intended to force Arabs out of their homeland to replace them with Zionist Jewish settlers.

Talking to a group of reporters at his office, the deputy premier and foreign minister said Kuwait had approved a call by Libya for a meeting of Arab foreign ministers to discuss developments of the Palestinian question and conditions in the occupied territories.

He said Kuwait will always be ready to take part in any meeting that serves the interests of the Arab nation and reiterated the country's support for the cause of the Palestinian people.

Praising the current massive Palestinian uprising against the Israeli occupation, Shaykh Sabah pledged backing for the Arabs confronting the occupation forces.

With reference to an Arab ministerial meeting called by the Palestine Liberation Organization to discuss the revolt in the occupied lands, Shaykh Sabah said Kuwait had not been invited to the meeting thus far.

He, [words indistinct], welcomed a planned visit to Kuwait by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, saying his highness the amir and the government and people of Kuwait greet the Egyptian president. Mubarak is to visit

Kuwait in the coming few days in part of a Gulf tour which follows the resumption of diplomatic relations between Cairo and five Arab Gulf countries in recent weeks.

Shaykh Sabah said contacts between countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council and Iran were continuous and that dialogue between the two sides has also been uninterrupted.

He indicated that diplomatic representation between the two sides still exists and hoped that good-neighbor relations would continue and become stronger between Iran and its Arab neighbors on the other side of the Gulf.

He also hoped that Iran would abandon its current policy toward the region and that cooperation between states of the region would continue for the attainment of stability and prosperity for all Gulf states.

PDRY

Al-'Attas Delivers New Year Address

EA011853 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 0330 GMT 1 Jan 88

[Text] Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, last night addressed our great Yemeni masses on the occasion of the new year. He began by congratulating the masses on behalf of the Central Committee and its Political Bureau, the Presidium, and the Council of Ministers.

Brother al-'Attas referred to the successes achieved by the workers and the toilers at various work and production facilities. He said:

During the year the discovery of oil in Shabwah Governorate was announced. There were also the successes of the general party congress and our people's celebration of the silver jubilees of the 26 September and the glorious national independence revolutions as well as the success of the first model elections to the local People's Councils at the provincial level in Radfan and Saywun Provinces.

He praised the great and noble role of the Armed Forces and the other security establishments for providing a climate of security and stability so that our people can enjoy peace and tranquillity.

The brother chairman of the Presidium also referred to the statement issued yesterday on the general and comprehensive amnesty which gives an opportunity to the remaining misled people to still benefit from it. He addressed a call to them to return to their homes, families, and relatives and to contribute to building a new life.

Reagarding the national issue, Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas stressed that many of the cooperation activities had been crystallized in unification work through the year by way of peaceful and democratic action. Visits were also exchanged by the leaders of the two parts [of the Yemeni homeland].

As for the Arab and international situation, Brother al-'Attas pointed out that in spite of all the tragedies there had been a noticeable improvement on which many hopes could be built, including the holding of the extraordinary Arab summit conference in Amman, our Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied territories, UN Security Council Resolution 598 on the Iraq-Iran war, the Washington summit between the USSR and the United States and the signing of the INF Treaty, and the peace initiative in Central America.

The brother chairman of the Presidium said 1988 should be welcomed with greater efforts and harder work to achieve the programs and plan of the 3d year of the economic and social development plan so as to produce a qualitative leap forward and solve the problems of economic and social development under the YSP leadership.

Al-Dali, Iran Envoy View Palestinian Situation

LD041735 Tehran IRNA in English 1619 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 4, IRNA—Foreign Minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY) 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali said today that his country shares the same view with Iran concerning support for the Palestinian uprising in the occupied lands.

In a meeting with the outgoing Iranian ambassador to Aden, Hasan Aminian, Al-Dali called for continuation of Palestinian struggles until the annihilation of the Zionist regime.

Al-Dali also called on the U.S. to end its military presence in the Persian Gulf, noting "U.S. is the number one enemy because of its support for the Zionist regime".

The two sides also exchanged views on Tehran-Aden relations as well as regional developments.

Council of Ministers Holds Regular Session

EA052239 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] This morning the Council of Ministers held its first regular session of 1988, under the chairmanship of Brother Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers. The council congratulated the masses of the great Yemeni people on the new year. It hailed all the efforts made last year to implement the plans, programs and activities of 1987.

Addressing itself to all ministries, central, and local bodies of the state; executive offices of local people's councils in the governorates; party, mass and creative organizations; all Yemeni workers and toilers in each place of work, including factories, plants, state farms, and cooperatives, and those in the trenches defending the state and the gains of the Yemeni toilers in the fields of culture, education and social services, the council urged them to strengthen their forces, increase production, and rationalize expenditure in this year of 1988, the third year of the 1986-1990 economic and social development plan.

The council also called on them to promote the methods of planned collective work, to raise work productivity, maintain good quality, reduce costs, utilize past experience of competition in production, and expand its scope and develop it for the better so as to ensure early implementation of practical tasks and production plans. It urged them to promote efficiency in carrying out the tasks facing government institutions and utilities, in order to reflect the spirit of the resolutions of the general party conference and the trend of the revolutionary government's programs and plans to provide the best services for the citizens and to maintain the stability of supplies enjoyed by our people, with the aim of improving their material and spiritual life.

During the meeting, the Council of Ministers discussed a number of reports, issues, and memoranda on its agenda: On the transfer of powers to allocate living quarters to the members of the local people's council in Aden Governorate; the Housing Finance Statute; the Revenue Collection Statute; and a draft law on reorganizing the Ministry of Installations and Housing. The council ratified the establishment of a housing department in Aden Governorate as part of the Ministry of Installations and Housing and to function under the guidance and supervision of the local people's council and its executive office in the governorate, according to the local government law.

The council defined the tasks and powers of this department. The council called on the ministries and relevant central organs to settle debts accumulated until the end of 1987 in favor of the Housing Ministry within in a period of time to be determined by the council. The council also ordered the Ministry of Installations and Housing to undertake land surveys for the purposes of construction by the citizens, provide services to them, and submit relevant proposals to the Council of Ministers. The council also adopted a number of other resolutions and measures at its meeting this morning on the items included on its agenda.

Saudi Arabia

'Text' of 1987-88 State General Budget

LD302259 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1715 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Text] Riyadh, 30 Dec (SPA)—A Royal Decree has been issued approving the state general budget for the fiscal year 1408/1409 [1987-88]. The text follows:

With God's assistance, we Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, king of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,

After taking cognizance of Article 37 of the statute of the Council of Ministers issued by Royal Decree No 38 of 1956;

After taking cognizance of the statements pertaining to the state revenues and expenditure for the fiscal year 1987-1988;

And after taking cognizance of the Council of Ministers Resolution No 85, dated 30 December 1987,

Have decreed the following:

1. a) State revenues for the fiscal year 1987-88 are estimated at 105.3 billion riyals in accordance with list A attached to this decree.

b) State expenditure for the fiscal year 1987-88 is confirmed at 141.2 billion riyals in accordance with list B attached to this decree.

2. The sum of 8 billion riyals should be transferred from the state's general reserves to revenues.

3. In order to increase the revenues of the general budget of the state to confront the expenditure on development approved in the budget, the Ministry of Finance and the National Economy is authorized to borrow not more than 30 billion riyals during the fiscal year 1987-88 gradually through the issuing of treasury bonds in Saudi riyals bearing various dates.

4. All revenues are to be paid in accordance with the financial regulations to the Saudi Monetary Agency and its branches in the account of the Ministry of Finance and the National Economy.

5. Expenditure to be in accordance with the budget and the instructions concerning them.

Transfer between the chapters, branches, and sections of the budget shall be carried out with the approval of the prime minister in accordance with a joint report by the concerned minister, or the head of department, or the head of the administration with an independent budget and the minister of finance and national economy.

6. Transfers from the items of sections one and two can be made by the decision of the concerned minister or the head of department with an independent budget on the condition that the transfer from any item shall not exceed half the original allocations in the budget with the exception of salary items, transfers from which can only be made in accordance with the previous paragraph of this article.

7. Allocations can be used only for the purpose for which they were earmarked; a payment order that exceeds the allocation cannot be made; and no spending commitment can be made which is not allocated in the budget.

8. No decision shall be made and no contract shall be entered into liable to create a commitment for a coming fiscal year other than the following:

a) Contracts whose implementation is continuing or of whose execution is of a revolving nature such as rent, work, services, sustenance, consultation service contracts whose allocations are set aside every year.

b) Importation contracts whose costs are approved in the second chapter on the condition that the value of the contract does not exceed the allocated sum during the current fiscal year, that the allocated sum is not (?tied up) and no transfer shall be made from it within the limit of the value of the contract, and that the implementation period of the contract shall not exceed the end of the following fiscal year.

9. If it transpires during the current fiscal year that there are sums to which commitment was made which exceeds the approved allocation, the matter shall be brought before the Council of Ministers if this was the result of unjustified behavior; otherwise, the minister of finance and national economy is authorized to give permission for the payment of those sums from the allocations of the current fiscal year.

10. It is not permissible at all to appoint or promote officials and employees other than to the jobs approved in this budget and according to the conditions and terms outlined in the regulations in force.

11. With the exception of the appointment of ministers, it is not permissible during the fiscal year 1987-1988 to create new posts or salaries other than those approved in this budget, with the exception of those created in accordance with the conditions included in the statute of temporary posts. It is not permissible to raise those salaries, but they can be reduced by a decision from the head of the civil service at the recommendation of a committee composed of representatives of the Ministry of Finance and National Economy, the general bureau of the civil service, and the concerned sides.

12. The administrative formations for every side are approved as they appear in the general budget and they can be amended only by a decision of the Supreme Committee for Administrative Reform. The names of posts can be altered in accordance with the needs of the rules for the classification of jobs by a decision of the head of the general bureau of the civil service, at the recommendation of a committee composed of the representatives of the Ministry of Finance and National Economy, the general bureau of the civil service, and the concerned side.

13. The minister of finance and national economy shall issue the instructions necessary for the implementation of this budget within the principles stipulated in this decree.

14. His highness the deputy prime minister and the ministers each in his domain shall implement our decree.

Deputy Minister Interviewed on GCC Summit

JN311924 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 30 Dec 87 p 21

[By Jasim al-Shammari]

[Text] Riyadh—In an interview following the conclusion of GCC summit sessions Prince 'Abd al-Rahman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, Saudi deputy minister of defense and aviation, expressed satisfaction with the recommendations and results of the meetings of the GCC leaders. He said: This is not surprising since the cooperation among the leaders was clear from the outset of the eighth GCC summit. This is what we expected because the leaders and peoples harbor love and cordiality for each other.

Answering a question on whether the GCC attained the hopes of the Gulf citizens, the Saudi deputy defense minister said: Undoubtedly, the results of the summit tackled many of their concerns. The summit's recommendations met their aspirations with regard to the economic, military, security, and political aspects. We hope that the leaders will be able to achieve all their goals.

Alhough the GCC is only 8 years old, its achievements over the past 8 years are beyond description, giving the impression that it was established dozens of years ago. This is a result of the cooperation and brotherhood among the GCC countries. These ties were significant in the final recommendations of the eighth GCC conference.

The Saudi deputy defense minister stressed that David Mellor, British minister of state at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, expressed his country's readiness to cooperate with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with regard to all the Kingdom's needs for weapons and the like. The Belgian defense minister also proposed cooperation with the Kingdom. He said: I am not saying that he proposed that the Kingdom obtain weapons from Belgium because we, in the Kingdom, do not yield to offers inasmuch as we look for modern weapons.

Answering AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM's question on whether there is a plan to dispatch the Peninsula Shield Force to Kuwait, he said: The Arab Peninsula Shield Force is ready to move to any GCC country. He pointed out that if the Peninsula Shield Force were in the Kingdom, it would also be in Kuwait; if it were in Kuwait it would also be in the Kingdom. It makes no difference. It is

equipped and ready to be dispatched any time. He stressed that the Peninsula Shield Force is very sophisticated and modern. It possesses all rapid deployment capabilities.

Answering a question on the capability of the Peninsula Shield Force to protect the Gulf's security in the wake of aggressions, the Saudi deputy defense minister said: We can talk about that when such aggressions occur. Let such aggressions or attacks take place and we will see if the force is efficient or not. When an aggression takes place against any Gulf country, we can then make the assessment. Moreover, I have said that the Peninsula Shield Force is sophisticated. It possesses the necessary equipment. It is prepared to make an effective rapid deployment.

On Saudi-Soviet relations, the Saudi deputy defense minister said: The Soviet Union is a superpower. Relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Soviet Union cover all spheres except diplomatic relations.

Answering a question on the Kingdom's intention to establish semi-diplomatic relations with Moscow, he said: Wait for the proper time. I cannot talk about the future in this regard.

On the obstacles impeding the establishment of relations with the Soviet Union, the Saudi deputy defense minister said: We cannot say that they are obstacles. Every country's circumstances call for certain things at certain times. It is hard to assess these circumstances at this time.

On whether the interference in Afghanistan impeded the establishment of diplomatic relations, Prince 'Abd al-Rahman said: Undoubtedly, the Soviet Union's presence in Afghanistan gives the impression to Middle East countries that it may launch an aggression against other countries and expand its colonialism because the Arab countries are next to Afghanistan. I hope that the Soviet Union will deny the rumors or intention attributed to it, wi hdraw from Afghanistan, and leave Afghanistan to the people. They are a Muslim people with the necessary potential. I do not think the continuation of the Soviet Union's occupation will achieve anything.

Answering a question on acquiring weapons from a single source, he said: Of course the GCC countries abide by the principle of obtaining weapons from a single source. We take weapons from all countries and not from one country. [sentence as published] We look for the best and most sophisticated weapons. We do not look for the source.

Committee Discusses Aid for Afghan Rebels

LD041941 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1528 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 4 Jan (SPA)—The general organization for receiving donations for the Afghan mujahidin held a meeting this afternoon under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Prince Salman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the amir of Riyadh and chairman of the organization. [passage omitted]

His Royal Highness Salman ibn al-'Aziz said that the organization discussed the issues on the agenda and reviewed the following reports:

First: A report on the funds transferred for the benefit of the Afghan mujahidin and emigrants. Since the formation of the organization these funds have reached 445,065,673 riyals. The latest sum was transferred on 27 December 1987. It amounted to 13,302,285 riyals, in addition to goods including foodstuff, clothing, blankets, medicines, and medical equipment which were donated by the citizens and sent to the muhajidin and emigrant brothers.

Second: The programs created and run by the Saudi aid committee in Pakistan.

1. The committee opened a 120-bed hospital in Quetta at the base of Baluchistan which it named the Holy Mecca Hospital. This hospital has been open for 3 years, and is considered among the best hospitals which treat those wounded in the battles in the region. Training sessions are organized for medical assistants who, following their graduation, go to the fronts and give first aid to the wounded. The hospital is still providing the best services for the mujahidin.

2. The committee established a clinic for natural treatment in Peshawar where the sick among the mujahidin receive natural treatment following the surgical operations they undergo in the hospitals. Training sessions are organized in this clinic for medical assistants in natural treatment.

3. The committee established a big center in the camp of Nasir Bagh near Peshawar to employ the widows, the disabled, and the orphans. More than 4,000 widows, 700 disabled, and 200 orphans are now benefiting from this center. They work in producing sheets, blankets, clothes, shoes, tents, and other things needed by the emigrants. Each widow, disabled, and orphan receives a salary for their work and the products are distributed among the emigrants. The center includes a professional school in which religious lessons and some professions are taught. The committee has started a similar project in Baluchistan.

4. The committee will undertake the sponsoring of a large number of orphans, and so far two homes for orphans have been set up. [passage omitted]

5. In participation with the Saudi Red Crescent, the committee will secure medicines, hospital requirements, care for the disabled, and the fitting of artificial limbs for those who need them, and will supply wheelchairs for those who are unable to walk.

6. The committee will help boarding schools that house Afghan students. [passage omitted]

7. [Words indistinct] the Koran school in Peshawer for 2 years. [passage omitted]

8. The committee will have some mosques built and wells drilled in camps which need them.

9. Recently the committee has turned to building rooms rather than camps for immigrants. [passage omitted]

10. Inspect the condition of widows and help those able to work by supplying sewing machines so that each one of them will be able to earn a living.

11. The committee will buy products on Pakistani markets and then distribute them among emigrants. [passage omitted]

12. The committee will pay out sums of money to mujahidin leaders as required.

13. The aid committee began its work in Pakistan over 4 years ago. This has enabled it to gain full experience in the fields of aid and to know the conditions of the mujahidin and the emigrants. [passage omitted]

Egyptian Envoy on Ties With Gulf Countries

LD061007 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2345 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 5 Jan (SPA)—Egypt today reaffirmed its position regarding Arab Gulf security, which calls for regarding it as part of Egyptian security.

Sayyid Qasim al-Misri, Egypt's ambassador to the Kingdom, said in a press interview that any threat to the fraternal countries of the Arabian Gulf was tantamount to a threat to Egyptian national security. He added that this position was stressed by His Excellency President Husni Mubarak on the occasion of the commencement of his second term in office. This also had been stressed by many Egyptian officials on numerous occasions. He went on to say: This is a natural and logical position dictated by Islam, Arabism, and Arab charters. [passage omitted]

He said that summit meeting between the two countries constituted one of the most important instruments for strengthening bilateral ties because it would give a strong impetus to joint Arab actions. [passage omitted]

The Egyptian ambassador said that there were many opportunities for bolstering trade exchanges among Arab countries, pointing out the importance of supporting the available opportunities and of promoting inter-Arab trade in order to build a comprehensive Arab economic base.

He pointed out that Egypt provided investment opportunities through its wide market, political stability, and the abundance of skilled labor, and said that his country's return to Arab funds was normal because it constituted a contribution to their capitals. [passage omitted]

Regarding the possibility of a meeting between Yasir 'Arafat and President Husni Mubarak, Sayyid Qasim al-Misri said that President Mubarak would be very pleased to meet Yasir 'Arafat, and that President Mubarak was in constant contact with 'Arafat.

Yemen Arab Republic

Foreign Ministry Official Leaves for GDR

JN051936 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] Brother Ahmad al-Iryani, under secretary of the Foreign Ministry, left for Berlin today heading a delegation on a visit of several days to the GDR. In a statement to SABA' NEWS AGENCY, the brother under secretary pointed out that he will discuss with the officials of the GDR Ministry of Foreign Affairs bilateral relations and regional and international issues of common interest to both states.

Further on Visit of Egyptian Delegation

President Given Mubarak Message

JN051252 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1040 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Jan (INA)—President Saddam Husayn today received a message from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. Rif'at al-Mahjub, speaker of the Egyptian People's Assembly, delivered it when President Saddam Husayn received him here today.

The message concerns bilateral relations and issues of common interest. In it, President Husni Mubarak expressed support for Iraq's valiant confrontation of the hostile schemes and the attempts to disrupt regional security and stability. President Mubarak also saluted Iraq's protection of the security and strategic interests of the Arab nation.

Sa'dun Hammadi, RCC member and speaker of the National Assembly, and the president's secretary attended the meeting.

Parliamentary Talks Begin

JN051448 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1330 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 5 Jan (INA)—Parliamentary talks began here today between the Iraqi National Assembly and the Egyptian People's Assembly. The Iraqi delegation to the talks was led by Sa'dun Hammadi, RCC member and speaker of the National Assembly, and the Egyptian side by Rif'at al-Mahjub, speaker of the People's Assembly.

Sa'dun Hammadi welcomed Rif'at al-Mahjub and his accompanying delegation, and affirmed the strength of fraternal relations between the two countries. He also affirmed Iraq's honest desire to reinforce these ties to serve joint Arab action.

Rif'at al-Mahjub stated: In our meeting with President Saddam Husayn, we were assured of the sound situation on the front. He added: We had been reassured about this and what the president told us increased our confidence. He also noted: As President Saddam Husayn said, Iraq is defending its territory and sovereignty and is also eager to establish peace. This is embodied by its acceptance of Security Council Resolution No 598 and all other UN resolutions on this topic.

Rif'at al-Mahjub reiterated Egypt's full support for Iraq in its just war. He added: Iraq's battle is our battle as well as that of the Arabs. He noted the stands of the Egyptian People's Assembly in support of Iraq, which has made great sacrifices for the sake of the Arab nation. [passage omitted]

'Aziz Meets With Al-Mahjub

JN051824 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Jan (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met here this evening with Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub, speaker of the Egyptian People's Assembly, and his accompanying delegation. The two sides discussed fraternal relations between Iraq and Egypt, their development, the current regional situation, and issues of common interest.

The meeting was attended by the Foreign Ministry under secretary, the chairman of the Arab and International Relations Committee at the National Assembly, the chief of the Arab desk at the Foreign Ministry, and the Egyptian ambassador to Baghdad.

Membership in Unions, Groups Made 'Optional'

JN052059 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1845 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Jan (INA)—The RCC has decided that membership in vocational federations, unions, societies, and clubs shall be optional. In accordance with this decision, all articles of laws, systems, and regulations that consider membership in these organizations obligatory are now annulled.

All material and moral effects resulting from the imposition of mandatory membership in these organizations are also annulled.

This decision will allow an Iraqi citizen to join one of these organizations if he believes he will benefit by becoming a member.

Communique No 2,975 Details 4-5 Jan Combat

JN051727 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Communique No 2,975 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 5 January 1987]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The following is a roundup of our units' activities for last night and today:

1. Yesterday, the enemy at different times sent 22 boats in two abortive attempts to approach Al-'Amiq port. The port force, which is known for its bravery, confronted the enemy boats with various weapons, aborted their evil intentions, and forced the enemy vessels to escape toward the Iranian coast.

2. In the I Army Corps northern sector, one infantry position and one vehicle were destroyed, and one ammunition dump was blown up.

3. In the Special I Army Corps sector—the Allahu Akbar Forces—one enemy scoundrel was killed and one machinegun was destroyed.

4. In the II Corps central sector, one infantry position and one observation post were destroyed.

5. In the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah, an enemy formation was attacked, with a number of its personnel killed or wounded, and one vehicle was destroyed.

6. In the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan, one medium machinegun and two infantry positions were destroyed.

7. In the VI Army Corps sector east of Tigris, one tank was damaged and three infantry positions were destroyed.

8. Our brave forces in the VII Army Corps sector inflicted the following losses on the enemy: destroying one tank; killing two enemy personnel; destroying two observation posts, one control tower, and three infantry positions; and blowing up one ammunition dump.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 5 January 1987

U.S. Vote Causes 'Shock,' 'Disappointment'

TA060529 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Excerpts] The UN Security Council has asked Israel not to go ahead with the deportation of nine Palestinians. The decision was taken unanimously. [passage omitted]

In Jerusalem this morning, Israeli officials expressed shock and disappointment over the American support for what they called a one-sided decision against Israel. Israel Radio's reporter in Washington says that Israel's ambassador in the American capital was unsuccessful in a bid to persuade Secretary of State George Shultz that the United States not vote for the resolution.

Peres: Vote 'Grave Deviation'

TA061119 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres stated that he greatly regrets the U.S. vote against Israel at the UN Security Council and added he will convey his sentiments to the Americans. Peres said he believes Israel did whatever was warranted and absolutely essential and that it acted out of a sense of obligation to make the lives of all Israeli inhabitants—both Jews and Arabs—easier. Nothing was done happily.

Peres added that he considers the U.S. vote to be a grave deviation from the usual practice and the fabric of relations between Israel and the United States.

Peres made these remarks as he emerged from the Vanunu trial, where he testified for more than 1 hour. He refused to divulge any details about his testimony. Our correspondent 'Oz Shelah reported the above information.

Further on Shamir Message to Mubarak

TA051648 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Report by political correspondent 'Oz Frankel]

[Text] The diplomatic channels between Cairo and Jerusalem have recently been loaded with messages and letters. This extensive activity may now be lessening the tension in relations between the two countries somewhat. In a message to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak today, Prime Minister Shamir says that both Israel and Egypt have a common interest in maintaining peace in the territories. Israel is trying to calm tempers on behalf of the local population, recognizing that this will make the continuation of peace efforts possible.

The prime minister adds that living conditions in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip have improved considerably over the last few years. Anyone who has complaints regarding housing conditions in refugee camps should know that these are not our fault: It is the terrorist organizations and the Arab states that are not interested in remedying the situation, despite the suffering of the population.

As for the policy of deportations—this came under heavy fire in Mubarak's message to Shamir at the start of the week—the prime minister says that this measure was adopted according to law. He notes that the candidates for deportation were given the right to appeal against the decision and that, in any case, what is involved here is nine instigators who had received other punishments in the past but still resumed their instigatory activities.

The message to the Egyptian president was conveyed through Ambassador Basyuni. Contrary to normal practice, press photographers were also invited to today's meeting between Shamir and Basyuni.

More on the political sphere: The UN secretary general is sending a special envoy to Israel, his deputy, Marrack Goulding, to view the situation in the wake of the riots in the territories. Today the Foreign Ministry announced that Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will receive Goulding for talks to explain the measures adopted in the territories, as well as Israel's reservations about the UN Security Council resolutions. It was reported from the prime minister's office that Mr Shamir has not yet decided whether to meet with the envoy of the UN secretary general.

Further on Visit by UK's David Mellor

Talks With Shamir

TA051955 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] Israeli officials this evening stated that the behavior of David Mellor, a minister at the British Foreign Office who leveled sharp public criticism at Israel during a visit to Gaza, was odd and regrettable. Still, at a talk with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir this evening, our correspondent Gid'on Remez has learned that this matter was not raised at all; Mr Shamir spoke with his guest only about the situation in the territories.

[Begin recording] [Remez] The prime minister told the British guest that Israel wants to direct efforts toward improving the quality of life in the territories, but that this will have to wait until calm is restored there.

Shamir's media adviser, Avi Pazner, says that Mellor was asked to bring this to Mrs Thatcher's attention.

[Pazner] The prime minister gave a detailed explanation of Israel's policy in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. He also noted his hope that peace and order will return to these regions very soon. We will then be able to find time, through direct negotiations with our neighbors, to try and find a solution to regional problems.

The prime minister emphasized that if Israel's friends, such as Mrs Thatcher, want to help, they can urge the neighboring Arab countries to enter into direct negotiations with Israel. This is the best way to solve these regional problems and to attain peace.

[Remez] We learned that the talk with Mellor was frank and that the prime minister did not enter into an argument about the British minister's remarks in Gaza yesterday. These remarks caused a storm in the media. He only noted that in Israel, unlike other countries, everyone can express his opinion.

[Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew at 1900 GMT also reports on Mellor's meeting with Shamir, adding that "Mr Shamir told the guest today that it is not customary among friends to level harsh criticisms in public."].

However, other Israeli officials said that the British minister's conduct was strange and regrettable. Had this official wished to achieve anything, the way to do this is not to publicly reprimand an IDF officer who is not allowed to respond.

These Israeli officials also said it is a pity to make such an ineffective display prior to the holding of official talks. In discussing Mellor's declarations in Gaza, these officials additionally stated it is a pity that a young politician who wants to engage in international diplomacy is not very particular about its basic rules. [end recording]

Herzog: Mellor 'Hypocritical'

TA052052 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] Earlier in the day, President Herzog described comments [visiting UK Minister of State for Foreign Affairs David] Mellor made yesterday in Gaza as hypocritical, in the light of his country's voting record at the United Nations. More from reporter Mark Weiss:

[Begin recording] [Weiss] President Herzog was speaking today before a group of U.S. rabbis here on a visit sponsored by the bonds organization. In what appeared to be a reference to Northern Ireland, the president criticized unsolicited advice from countries that have failed to solve similar disputes. President Herzog said that Israel has moved some 10,000 Palestinian families from Gaza refugee camps into their own homes. These homes have running water, electricity, and gardens, and were paid for with these people's own earnings, supplemented by loans from the Israeli Government.

In answering the criticisms Mellor issued yesterday on conditions in Gaza, the president stated that the UN has passed a resolution every year since 1971 calling on Israel to return these refugees to the camps.

[Herzog] Let me remind our visitor from Britain who is rightly appalled by conditions in the Gaza refugee camps that Great Britain this year, as in the past, voted for that ludicrous resolution. This measure calls on Israel to return the refugees from decent housing to the camps, which Mr Mellor so rightly points out are an affront to civilized values. This vote would be a bad joke if it wasn't so tragic.

[Weiss] The president said the 1948 war created two refugee problems: the Palestinians and the Jews from Arab states. But while Israel has solved its problem, the Arab states, despite their vast oil wealth, have for the last 40 years perpetuated the problem of the Palestinian refugees. [end recording]

Mellor: 'Profound Reservations'

TA060627 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 6 Jan 88 pp 1, 2

[Report on an interview with David Mellor, British minister of state at the British Foreign Office, by David Landau and Menahem Shalev "immediately after" Mellor's meeting with Prime Minister Shamir on 5 January]

[Text] British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is "always ready to talk" to Israel's Yitzhak Shamir—but only "when there are new things to talk about."

This position, akin to that of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak vis-a-vis Shamir, was spelled out here last night by the visiting Minister of State at the British Foreign Office, David Mellor.

In an interview with THE JERUSALEM POST immediately after meeting with the premier, the British minister gave no indication that there are, in his view, any "new things to talk about" with Shamir. He carefully characterized the session with Shamir "useful" in contrast to his meetings with "Foreign Minister Peres and others" which he described as "warm and positive."

Mellor made no apology for his altercation the day before in Gaza with an IDF officer whom he challenged over the arrest of a youth. "A complaint was made to me within the terms of the Geneva Conventions (regarding the arrest)... The officer ran directly into my path. I could do no less than ask him to investigate.

"A situation developed that was not of my making... I would have been criticized either way."

While unrepentant, Mellor was anxious that the incident not overshadow or cloud his "central thesis" that "the situation in the occupied territories is untenable." He repeatedly cited the hardening view of the "international community" and predicted growing anger and frustration around the world at the "stagnating situation" in the West Bank and Gaza.

"The international community is becoming increasingly concerned...and particularly focused on the disorders and the loss of life. The international community has been sharply critical of the means that have been employed to suppress those demonstrations, which have led to loss of life. The international community says, in the Security Council resolution, that excessive force had been used. It is our wish to see the standards set by the Geneva Conventions applied. In particular, one would comment on deportations as being contrary to international law.

"It is the people of Israel that have as much to gain, if not more to gain, than anyone else from having these matters settled."

Mellor said that when standing in the squalor of the Jabalyah refugee camp, he could "in all conscience do no other" than give vent to his own and his government's profound reservations over Israel's measures of suppression in the territories and its failure to move towards a negotiated settlement of the Palestinian problem.

"The problem of the occupied territories can be resolved if an international conference is held under the umbrella of the five permanent members of the Security Council, on a totally open basis, without prior requirements regarding outcomes. There would be negotiations in plenary session, and more particularly in a bilateral forum.

"This would be acceptable to the Arab side, and is of course acceptable to some prominent members of the Israeli government. But not to all.

"We believe the climate is otherwise favourable to a settlement. The Arab world has moderate leadership; the people have learnt many of the lessons of the past."

The Amman summit resolutions were "hopeful auguries," he continued, as was the evolving cooperation among the five permanent members of the Security Council over the Gulf War.

He had spent "a whole day" on the West Bank and also had "the advantage of having been to Jabalyah" the next day, Mellor noted. The experience had reinforced for him the validity of Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe's "prophetic words" last October on "the brutalizing effects of two decades of occupation...resentment and resistance which in turn provoke further repression and consequent internal censure. They do damage to Israel herself."

Mellor stressed repeatedly to THE POST that British ministers spoke as longstanding friends of Israel with proven records of consistent support for the Jewish State's right to live in security, but it was "idle to believe there could be peace and security for Israel without self-determination for the Palestinians," Mellor warned.

Peres Regrets Khan Yunus Death; on Unrest

TA051759 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, regrets the death of a Khan Yunus resident, but says that the Arabs have no choice. Lone individuals must not be allowed to undermine life in Judaea, Samaria, or Gaza. Our correspondent Gabi Zohar spoke with Shim'on Peres during his trip to Or 'Aqiva.

[Begin recording] [Peres] There is no doubt that we are interested in a calm situation, but I also think that the Arabs have no choice: The residents of the territories have no choice but to attain calm as well. This harms their normal lives, their work, and other areas. Groups and single individuals must not be allowed to undermine life. Despite all the difficulty and pain, we must exercise patience and let another day or two pass until matters calm down.

[Zohar] Civilian uprising was mentioned in this context today. What is the significance of such an uprising? Is it at all possible? Will a peace process that is registering no progress encourage the Arabs in Judaea and Samaria to launch such a move?

[Peres] Look, I do not believe in this since whoever proposes civilian uprising is also proposing a bitter life for the residents. What does civilian uprising mean? They will make life, first and foremost for the residents of the territories, difficult or impossible.

Therefore, I think this idea is being toyed with without having been thoroughly examined. In my opinion, it is possible to reach a correct situation in which two kinds of effort are simultaneously exerted: an effort to calm the situation in the territories, and an effort to renew the peace process. We must move on two legs, not on one. [end recording]

Chief of Staff Briefs Knesset Committee

TA051720 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] Chief of Staff Dan Shomron appeared before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee today. He said that we should avoid reaching a situation where soldiers in the territories have to shoot, since every additional death leads to further ferment. Our correspondent Natan Gutman reports from the Knesset:

[Begin recording] Left-wing Knesset members [MK's] in the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, including Yosi Sarid, El'azar Granot and Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, today demanded that IDF forces be removed from the towns, camps, and other population centers in the territories, and concentrate instead on maintaining open traffic routes and certain strategic spots. Chief of Staff

Dan Shomron answered that the IDF is in the process of removing forces from the territories, but that control in the area is an absolutely necessity for any political approach.

It is not really possible to be outside and maintain control and calm at the same time. In such a situation the youths will be the policemen, and terror will advance at us from there. Nevertheless, the chief of staff adds, tactically speaking it is sometimes logical to close a place from the outside, allowing accumulated energy to dissipate without intervention; then, only after pressure has been released, can one enter and do what is necessary.

As for remarks by MK's that remaining in the territories detracts from the IDF's preparedness for war, Lieutenant General Shomron replied: The IDF did not neglect anything, but if we have to keep all the forces there for a long time, matters will be different, of course.

The chief of staff also said that IDF soldiers should exercise restraint until self-defense dictates otherwise. Those killed serve as oil for the machinery of demonstrations, and any additional death causes continued ferment. In this context, the committee members leveled criticism at the detention of the soldier who fired his weapon, killing the young woman in the village of Al-Ram. The chief of staff disclosed that the soldier, who left his post and acted on his own, did not adhere to regulations; he thus found himself forced to shoot, a situation he was not supposed to reach in the first place.

Another matter arising in the discussion today was reports in HA'IR by correspondent Makram Khuri Mahul about various incidents in Gaza. These reports were proven incorrect, and the chief of staff said the journalist may be brought to trial. [end recording]

Soldier Stabbed in Tulkarm; Gaza Disturbances

TA060800 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] There was an attempt in Tulkarm to stab a woman soldier who was traveling in a vehicle with a Civilian Administration officer. She sustained light injuries. The Civilian Administration officer shot at the assailant, inflicting medium wounds. Following the incident, a military source again stressed the determination of the security forces to react immediately and stringently to each incident.

There were several disturbances in the Gaza Strip this morning. Local inhabitants in Gaza City and Rafah congregated, hurled stones, and burned tires. They were dispersed by the security forces.

Several Curfews Reported in West Bank 6 Jan

TA061153 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] The security forces used tear gas to disperse a demonstration by inhabitants of Qalqilyah and imposed a curfew on most parts of the town. Stones were hurled at the Al-Am'ari refugee camp.

There were disturbances and a commercial strike in Al-Birah and in the Ramallah area. A 24-hour curfew was imposed on the Balatah refugee camp near Nabulus. A curfew was also imposed this morning on the Tulkarm refugee camp after a woman soldier was injured. A Civilian Administration officer shot at the youth who attacked the soldier, inflicting medium wounds. The assailant is 21 years old.

The curfew continues in the Tulkarm refugee camp and the ('Azza) refugee camp near Bethlehem. [Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1130 GMT adds that "the metal shutters of several shops in Tulkarm were soldered following the attempts of their owners to start a commercial strike there. Trade is conducted normally now."]

Yafo Rioter Sentenced to 6-Month Jail Term

TA061135 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1030 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] A 22-year-old Yafo resident was sentenced to 6 months in jail and a 12-month suspended sentence after being convicted of attacking a policeman and rioting during the Arab demonstrations in Yafo 2 weeks ago. Magistrate Hayim Eylat explained the punishment by saying that the defendant's actions endangered the essential coexistence between Jews and Muslims in Israel.

Our correspondent Yasmin Qeyni reports that the defendant's attorney, who was surprised by the gravity of the punishment, will appeal to Magistrate Eylat tomorrow to convert it to public service.

'Sources' Say Palestinian Government 'Imminent'

TA060700 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 5 Jan 88 pp 1, 4

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari, Uri Horowitz, and Dalya Refa'el]

[Excerpt] "The establishment of a Palestinian government-in-exile is far more imminent than Israel thinks," foreign diplomatic sources have told 'AL HAMISHMAR. They reported that contacts and consultations toward the establishment of such a government have already begun and include Arab countries, particularly Egypt. Cairo is to serve as the venue for the government once it is set up.

The composition of the government will be according to representation from various regions and from Palestinian sectors. Thus, the West Bank, Gaza, the Palestinian

diaspora, Islamic-religious circles, and others will be represented, but no decision has been made on who will head the government. At one time, President al-Sadat mentioned Prof Edward Sa'id, who comes from the United States and is a member of the PNC, as a candidate for prime minister of the Palestinian government-in-exile.

The government will be established just before the Reagan-Gorbachev summit in Moscow this coming spring. The move was apparently initiated by the Soviet Union. Gorbachev promised 'Arafat to raise the Palestinian issue in his next talks with Reagan, and the Palestinians must prepare for this.

The PLO Central Committee is expected to hold an emergency meeting in Baghdad on Thursday to discuss the situation in the territories and the possibility of establishing a government-in-exile. A PLO spokesman has reported that the committee will discuss the organization's legal committee's report on the legal and political implications of the proposal that a government-in-exile be set up.

He added that the committee will also discuss ways to support "civil disobedience" in the territories, as well as Israel's intention to deport nine Palestinians. It should be pointed out that the PLO Central Committee serves as a liaison between the executive and the PNC. [passage omitted]

Army Positions Shelled From Druze Areas

NC052031 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] The security situation has suffered a setback on the mountain combat lines. Army positions in Suq al-Gharb have been coming under machinegun fire and intermittent shelling from PSP positions in 'Aytat since 2110. PSP positions in Kayfun fired several shells at Army positions in Qal'at al-Husn at 2200. The Central Security Committee is making contacts to contain the situation.

'Calm' Following Shelling

NC052127 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] The mountain areas are calm once again following a setback which took place between 2110 and 2215, when Army positions in Suq al-Gharb and Qal'at al-Husn came under intermittent shelling and machinegun fire from PSP positions in 'Aytat and Kayfun.

PSP's 'Right to Self-Defense' Stressed

NC052029 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] After meeting separately with Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and Amal Movement leader Minister Nabih Birri, PSP Command member Akram Shuhayyib declared that contacts are continuing in an attempt to spare the country further destruction and ruin in the wake of the helicopter crisis.

He also declared that the PSP has the full right to self-defense with all means if the Army Command does not abandon its escalatory policy.

Group Claims Tripoli Killing of Syrian Officer

NC051504 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] The Lebanese Liberation Front has claimed responsibility for killing Mahmud al-Hasan, a first lieutenant in the Syrian occupation army, in the Al-Baddawi area in Tripoli this morning.

The Front also claimed responsibility for assassinating Palestinian Ahmad Ibrahim 'Awad, a member of the DFLP, whose identity card number is 2112.

A spokesman for the Front warned the Syrians against staying in Lebanon.

'9 February' Claims Attacks on Syrian Posts

NC060922 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] The Khalil 'Akkawi Group of the 9 February Organization has claimed responsibility for rocket and machinegun attacks against two Syrian positions in Tripoli at dawn today. The first attack was directed at a position in the Tripoli fairgrounds, the second at a position in the Ra's al-Sakhr neighborhood. A number of Syrian casualties have been reported.

Grad Missiles Fired at Israeli Settlement

NC052020 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] National Resistance fighters detonated an explosive charge while an agent Lahd patrol was passing near the 'Aynata-Saff al-Hawa Road junction in the Bint Jubayl District today. The number of casualties is not known due to the security cordon that was thrown up around the scene of the incident.

In another development, a resistance group fired three Grad missiles at the Qiryat Shemona settlement. The missiles hit their targets.

Al-Huss Receives Message From France's Chirac

NC051735 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss received the following written message from French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac this afternoon:

Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss: As you know, I am closely monitoring developments in the Lebanese situation, particularly the current deterioration on the socioeconomic level. Like all French, I am pained at such a deterioration. Our government has often reiterated the need to rebuild Lebanon's unity, independence, and sovereignty. Meanwhile, the French Government is trying, within its available capabilities, to help the Lebanese confront their tragedies.

In his message, Chirac added that France has decided to earmark Fr2 million to assist the needy in Lebanon. He said that efforts are underway to bolster French-Lebanese technical and cultural cooperation. In this connection Chirac said: Despite all the difficulties, I am convinced that educating and developing young people and preparing for the future must be further promoted and continued. I am confident that Lebanese officials are thinking in the same direction.

The French prime minister concluded his message by saying: I take this opportunity to convey to you, your family, and the Lebanese people, whom we wish peace at the earliest possible time, our sincere greetings on the New Year.

Amal's Birri Interviewed on Elections, Accord

JN031047 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I in Arabic 31 Dec 87 p 10

[Interview with Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri by correspondents Rafiq Nasrallah and Ibrahim Bayram in Beirut—date not given]

[Excerpts] [Reporter] Press reports mention that President al-Jumayyil is preparing a new working paper for resuming dialogue with Damascus. The press reports

also mention that the working paper contains new elements for a solution. What information do you have on this?

[Birri] I know nothing about a new working paper by President al-Jumayyil. The only paper I know about is that of 17 June 1987, to which we replied at the time. In any case, President al-Jumayyil has many working papers which produce nothing new. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Reports also mention that efforts are under way to form a new government early this spring whose most important task is to prepare for the presidential elections. What is your stand on this?

[Birri] If national accord is attained before the presidential elections, then a new government will be formed to supervise the elections. This is a custom. But if national accord is not attained, then if is natural that there will be no presidency, government, or anything else. Let them listen to me carefully.

I say this through AL-ITTIHAD: There will be no elections if national accord is not attained. There will be no renewal for President al- Jumayyil's term in office. From now on, there will be no other sectarian or Phalangist regime in the B'abda Palace. There will be no new president who will assume power with the help of Israeli tanks. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] There is talk about the appointment of former President Sulayman Franjiyah as president for a 2-year transition period. What is your stand on this?

[Birri] I would like to emphasize once again that national accord must be attained. Once it is attained, we will not object to any formula for the settlement of this issue, whether this takes place through Franjiyah or others as long as there is an intention to emerge from the crisis. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Some believe that there is weakness in the unified national action for the confrontation of future developments, particularly the presidential elections, and that this weakness is the result of the freezing of the Unification and Liberation Front. Is there a national plan to invigorate national action?

[Birri] This is true. Unfortunately, there is no unified national plan to confront future developments in spite of the fact that there are no major disagreements among the parties of the national and Islamic rank. There is no unified national action in this respect. This is the truth. So far, we have not formulated a plan for reactivating national action. [passage omitted]

Qansuh Forms Popular Steadfastness Group

NC310720 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0530 GMT 31 Dec 87

[Text] The nationalist and progressive parties and forces in Ba'labakk held a meeting under 'Asim Qansuh, regional secretary of the Ba'th Party Organization in Lebanon, yesterday. They decided to establish a Popular Steadfastness Organization [hay'at al-sumud al-sha'bi] under the leadership of Qansuh.

The organization will include representatives of all the parties, the Amal Movement, nationalist and progressive figures, effective economic and social forces, and official institutions in the area.

Al-Asad Receives Saudi Deputy Defense Minister

JN052025 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] At 1900 today, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received His Royal Highness Prince 'Abd al-Rahman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi Arabian deputy defense and aviation minister and inspector general of the Saudi Arabian Armed Forces.

Talks dealt with a number of Arab issues, the situation in the region, and issues of common interest.

55 Dismissed Officials, Employees Face Trial

JN061459 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 6 Jan 88 p 1

[Text] Damascus—QNA—Yesterday, the competent Syrian authorities decided to dismiss 55 directors-general and responsible employees in a number of Syrian industrial and production establishments. The Syrian authorities decided to refer them to courts to be tried for corruption, misappropriation of funds, and mismanagement.

TISHRIN Discusses Palestinian 'Uprising'

PM041517 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 17 Dec 87 p 8

['Ali al-Siwan article: "What Uprising Imposes"]

[Text] The Palestinian uprising hit like a bullet, breaking a long silence with rippling echoes and causing confusion. The uprising restated the fact that the Arab conflict with Zionism is one of destiny, not a conflict over borders that can be settled.

The uprising proved that a settlement based on both sides making concessions would fail. This is because the Zionists have been barbaric enough to force the conclusion that struggle is the only alternative to the practices of the oppressive forces.

The uprising exposed the approach of eclipsing the Palestinian cause by plunging into other conflicts, giving the Zionist entity the opportunity to use time in its favor.

Therefore the Palestinian nationalist uprising has exposed all side roads leading to the approach of a reconciliation with Israel, enabling the Zionists to inflict defeat on the homeland and the nation.

The most notable of these side roads, exposed through the widespread popular Palestinian resistance to the Zionists' racism, is the road pursued by the head of the Palestinian Right, who could find nothing better to do than to call for the Israeli people to intervene and stop the massacre.

Such an appeal reveals two facts: first, the vast distance between the patriotic masses and the leadership of the Right, since it has failed to join the masses' movement, which ignored the Right, its institutions, and work methods. Second, the head of the Palestinian Right grasped the opportunity to offer an open recognition of Israel by differentiating between the "Israeli people" and the Israeli Government!

This was on the basis that Zionist settlers in Palestine are a "people" and something removed from the Israeli Government! Such recognition is a prerequisite for a settlement; it is a condition set by the United States in order to see the head of the Right playing a role in the scheme known as the "peace process," which is aimed at destroying Palestinian national rights.

The uprising demands that stands and policies relating to the Palestinian cause be reassessed; it demands that trading in Palestinian people's suffering or using them as a means for entering into channels leading to a settlement be stopped.

It demands that a philosophy of uprising be pursued, and this is the martyrs' right—a philosophy that is completely incompatible with the policy of adding grist to the Camp David mill, which seems to have been revived now that the Egyptian regime's isolation has been broken in some Arab arenas.

In short, in view of the uprising all terms of "solidarity" with the Palestinian Arabs will lose credibility unless they are accompanied by policies hostile to imperialism, Zionism, and the approach of Arabizing Camp David.

Panting along the road of subservience to the United States behind the mirage of a settlement cannot be reconciled with lamentation over the Palestinian people's sufferings, which the uprising has, more than ever before, shown to be false lamentation, especially as martyrs are being killed by U.S. arms under the schemes of the U.S.-Zionist strategic alliance.

Papers React to Al-Baz AL-SIYASAH Interview

JN051612 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1135 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Damascus, 5 Jan (SANA)—In its editorial today, the newspaper TISHRIN expressed astonishment and wonder over the analytical logic used by Usamah al-Baz, adviser to the Egyptian regime's president, explaining that the uprising in the occupied territories could not have been initiated had it not been for statements by Israeli leaders on their unwillingness to withdraw from the occupied territories.

The newspaper adds: With such an oversimplification, Al-Baz contributes to efforts seeking to render the revolution void of its militant content and belittle its generous sacrifices. He also seeks to underestimate the violence of the slap in the face dealt to his regime and those supporting it by the revolution.

The newspaper pointed out that Al-Baz, the Egyptian regime's spokesman, has neither changed the equation regarding his regime's capitulation to the Arabs' enemy nor the masses' opinion of him, as he has not been the first and will not be the last to be involved in such things since Al-Sadat and his clique became immersed in the swamp of treason.

The Egyptian Arab masses know how to demonstrate their solidarity with the kinfolk's uprising in the occupied territories. Previously, this demonstration of solidarity took the form of bullets fired by martyr Sulayman Khatir and 'Ali Hasan Tulbah.

The newspaper affirmed that the Egyptian masses, while currently sympathizing and displaying solidarity with the kinfolk's uprising in the occupied territories, have confirmed that Egypt's sovereignty, its Arab affiliation, and its militant role in the Arab-Zionist conflict cannot remain hostage to the statements of a deviationist.

They have also affirmed that these things should be translated into popular, nationalist, pan-Arab, and moral practices. They have displayed these practices in a manner that uplifts Egypt's dignity despite the efforts of those who want to defame its name and reputation.

Concluding, the paper said that the Egyptian regime's spokesman bolstered the conviction held by the Arab masses inside and outside Egypt that all the justifications advanced by some Arabs to widen the door through which the Egyptian regime can return to the Arab fold are merely hollow, since the Egyptian regime clearly revealed its true stand when it considered the uprising no more than a reaction. [passage omitted]

The newspaper AL-BA'TH reiterates that the statements made by Al-Baz, director of the office of the Egyptian regime's president, show that the treasonous Egyptian regime resorted to deception once again when it claimed that the Camp David accords do not override the joint Arab Defense Pact, deliberately choosing to forget the sixth article of these accords that made Egypt shirk all Arab commitments.

The newspaper believes that the Egyptian regime's deceptive campaign cannot absorb the Egyptian masses' growing wrath, which has come to constitute a major threat to the collpasing regime.

The newspaper AL-THAWRAH says that the Egyptian regime's henchmen continue to make deceptive statements in these circumstances, when the escalating uprising in the occupied territories has embarrassed the Egyptian regime in the internal, external, and Arab arenas.

The newspaper points out that the recent statements by Al-Baz are no more than an attempt to mislead the Arabs and give them false reassurances regarding the Egyptian regime's ties with Israel, from whose shackles it cannot free itself.

The newspaper finds it strange to see Al-Baz in his statements to Kuwait's AL-SIYASAH deliver a lecture on the basics of the Arab understanding of the nature of the Zionist entity, while he reiterated that is regime's ties with Israel take precedence over any other relations.

Afghanistan

Zahir Shah Willing To Participate in Settlement

LD060923 Paris International Service in French 1800 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] Zahir Shah, the former king of Afghanistan, in an exclusive interview to Radio France Internationale has expressed his willingness to participate in the settlement of the Afghan issue.

Islamabad Reports Khowst Fighting Situation

BK060820 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] In Afghanistan, the freedom fighters are reported to have launched a major operation in the area between Gardeyz and Kabul to relieve the pressure of the Soviet-Kabul troops on the Khowst war front. The freedom fighters closed down the highway from Muhammad Agha to (Sulay Alam) and beyond up to Gardeyz at several points and paralyzed the movement of the Soviet-Kabul forces.

Mujahidin Down Soviet Plane Near Khowst

LD051626 Tehran IRNA in English 1532 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] Islamabad, Jan. 5, IRNA—Afghan Muslim revolutionaries shot down another Soviet plane around the Mujahideen besieged Khowst region, in Paktia Province, southeastern Afghanistan.

The plane downed by anti-aircraft fire was one of the eight fighter planes which bombarded positions occupied by Afghan mujahideen in the suburbs of Khowst. There is no information on the fate of the pilot.

Another report reaching from the Khowst region indicates that the joint Soviet-Afghan government forces managed to break a part of the siege around garrison-town of Khowst and carried their relief convoy inside the town after suffering considerable losses.

It is to be noted that the governorate of Khowst has been the venue of some of the bloodiest conflicts between the joint forces and the mujahideen who have Khowst under siege since the early days of the Soviet military intrusion in Afghanistan.

Security Forces Defuse Explosives in Kabul

LD051757 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] Through timely action the security forces prevented the perpetration of another crime by the extremist elements.

According to the BIA military correspondent, the enemies of our people's tranquillity planted 5 kg of U.S. manufactured plastic explosives in a densely populated area of Mirways Meydan [within Kabul], intending to cause a disastrous event. However, the security forces discovered the explosives and defused them.

Security Forces Seize 2 Antiaircraft Missiles

LD051844 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] Two antiaircraft missiles of the type (Strado) with their launch unit, were seized by the country's security forces today in the surroundings of Paghman District.

According to a BIA report, the peace-loving inhabitants of Paghman District reported to the national reconciliation commission the existence of a weapons and ammunition depot in their region belonging to the extremist groups. The national reconciliation commission of this district asked the security forces to remove the above weapons and ammunition in order to prevent the extremists from committing crimes.

The security forces surrounded this region and evacuated the antiaircraft missiles and launcher unit, together with a large number of light weapons and ammunition, and antipersonnel mines deployed in this depot.

BAKHTAR Commentary Examines Guillo Case

LD060948 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0454 GMT 6 Jan 88

["Commentary"—BAKHTAR headline]

[Text] Kabul, January 5 BAKHTAR—A political observer of BAKHTAR writes:

The Western circles and authorities and the reactionary regimes of the region from the beginning of the victory of April Revolution in Afghanistan have illegally infiltrated their professional agents under the different names of physicians, assistants, reporters and clergymen and have planned to realise their ominous aims against the revolutionary sovereignty and people of Afghanistan.

One of these spies is Alain Guillo who, in different guises with the help of counter-revolutionary extremists, has secretly entered Afghanistan for nine times since 1980 and has been recently arrested by the security forces.

There are undeniable evidences indicating that Alain Guillo contrary to his claim and that of the specific Western circles is not a journalist and in his secret trips to Afghanistan has guided a number of other spies from the United States, Pakistan, France, Britain and the Arab reactionary countries to enter Afghanistan.

He had been engaged, during his secret trips to Afghanistan, in collecting information about the military activities of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan,

data and figures on the Afghan Armed Forces, its military tactics and activities as well as the location of the military posts. A number of twenty-six topographic maps was obtained from Alain Guillo.

The maps published in France was put at his disposal by a French state organ. Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Afghanistan recognises these maps as secret documents.

Moreover, he has set the requirements of the groups in modern weapons such as Stinger missiles and Blowpipes and sought to provide them.

Alain Guillo supplied films with unreal scenario in order to mislead international public opinions and to fan up hostility towards Afghanistan.

These films which are far from the truths have been made in order to attract the support of imperialist and reactionary circles to counter-revolution and had no (?other) objective but stepping up of the undeclared war as well as the continuation of bloodshed in Afghanistan.

The fact is that the legal doors of the Republic of Afghanistan has never been closed to real reporters and photo-reporters and there is no reason for them to enter from illegal routes.

During this year over 250 reporters from Western countries obtained entry visas from diplomatic missions of the Republic of Afghanistan abroad not only for visiting the capital but for the provinces as well.

However, certain elements under different [words indistinct] infiltrate into the country in secret manner in order to achieve their illegal objectives.

Sooner or later such persons will face legal punishment for their anti-human actions as Alain Guillo faced in his trail.

Commentary Condemns U.S. Support for Rebels

LD042111 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1634 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] The next round of the Geneva talks to resolve the situation surrounding Afghanistan will be resumed soon. The parties concerned, including the special envoy of the UN secretary general, have expressed the hope that this will be the last round because the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union have made possible the securing of an agreement to solve the problems surrounding Afghanistan by withdrawing Soviet military forces within 12 months, provided foreign interference ceases.

It is expected that the U.S. Government will also fulfill its commitments in accordance with the Geneva agreement and cut off financial and military assistance to the opponents of our revolution so that a quick solution is found to the fourth paragraph of the agreement.

However, regretfully, in contrast with its words, Washington persistently torpedoes this solution and tries to fuel the hotbed of tension in this region of Asia with its continued interference in our country's internal affairs. The U.S Congress in its 1988 budget approved for this purpose $30 million more than the previous year—it can be called philanthropic. This is in addition to the $1.07 billion placed at the disposal of these groups between 1983-1987. A large part of this money is spent on purchasing the most modern weapons which have shed the blood of many innocent people in our wartorn country and caused enormous destruction and ruin.

Obviously, the continuation of this imposed war could not have been possible without such overt and covert help by Pakistan and the United States. And the allotment of help for 1988 means that Washington is still resolute in stoking the oven of war in the interest of its strategic and interfering aims. It should be noted that the United States is putting a lot of emphasis on the return of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan in order to promote its domineering aims in this region and to hide its real intentions and links to this other measures to resolve the situation in our region.

At a time when the president of the Republic of Afghanistan, in his speech to representatives of the nation, sought to shorten the time span of the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan, the U.S. Administration and the U.S. Congress by approving more military and financial aid are disrupting the conditions in the agreement under which the withdrawal of these limited contingents can be effected sooner. In fact, it is hampering such a move.

UK Parliamentary Delegation Visits Kabul

LD052105 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] A British parliamentary delegation headed by Ron Brown, president of the Britain-Afghanistan Friendship Society, has come to Kabul at the invitation of the Organization of Peace, Solidarity,and Friendship. The delegation of the Republic of Afghanistan met separately with Abdul Hamid Mohtat, deputy prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, and Abdurrahim Hatif, president of the Central Council of the National Front of the Republic of Afghanistan.

In the meetings the two sides talked about the development of friendly relations between the social circles of the two countries and the progress of the implementation of national reconciliation policy and its values in the Republic of Afghanistan.

Similarly the delegation met with the leaderships of the Republic of Afghanistan's Organization of Peace, Solidarity, and Friendship; the Women's Council; and the Central Council of the Trade Unions.

According to another report, the British parliamentary delegation laid a wreath at the tombs of the martyrs of the revolution at the Shahidano Ghondai yesterday.

UN Human Rights Official To Prepare Report

LD052224 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] Professor F. Ermacora, special rapporteur of the UN Human Rights Commission and leading a delegation, arrived in Kabul this morning to prepare a report about the circumstances of human rights in the Republic of Afghanistan.

At Kabul Airport Professor F. Ermacora and his accompanying delegation were welcomed by a number of officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

According to another report Professor Ermacora met Minister of Justice Muhammad Bashir Baghlani this afternoon.

At this meeting the minister of justice gave a detailed information to Professor Ermacora about the method of activities of this ministry in relation to the laws of the country.

Ermacora met the secretary general of the Afghan Red Crescent Society this afternoon. The secretary general of the society explained the activities of the Afghan Red Crescent Society and answered Ermacora's questions.

The report adds that all relevant organs have been instructed to fully cooperate and assist in the completion of the desired report.

Scientist on Value of Space Flight With USSR

LD020714 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0436 GMT 2 Jan 88

[Text] Kabul, January 1, BAKHTAR—The recent success of the Soviet cosmonauts is considered as one of the most important scientific events in the field of space flights. With this journey, the Soviet cosmonauts showed once again that the space and technology should be utilised for peaceful purposes and for the improvement of human life, only, said Dr. Ahmad Leqa Najm [name as received], chairman of the Mathematics, Physical and Technical Center of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Afghanistan, in relation to the successful flight and scientific research of the Soviet Union astronauts in the space, who have returned to the earth today.

It must be said here that the Soviet Union by launching the first satellite to the space in 1957 and sending of the first man to the space in 1961, has always put the peaceful use of space for the betterment of human life, he went on.

The latest success of the Soviet cosmonauts is not of great importance for the Soviet Union alone, but it is of vital importance for the peaceful human (?beings) as well, Leqa added.

In relation to the flight of the first Afghan cosmonaut to the space, which with the assistance of the Soviet Union takes place shortly, said that it is the Soviet Union that helps the Republic of Afghanistan in this particular and important fields.

"This will help us to improve industry and agriculture as well as other profitable talks for the improvement of the living conditions of our people. This is the biggest assistance of the Soviet Union in the fields of natural science and space to the Republic of Afghanistan", Dr. Leq noted.

Bangladesh

Opposition Parties Defy Ban, Hold Rallies

BK060324 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] In Bangladesh, the opposition parties launched an intensified antigovernment action program yesterday to force the resignation of President Ershad. Mr Ershad is now on a 4-day state visit to Egypt. A leader of the eight-party opposition alliance said people defied the government's ban on rallies and held protest rallies and brought out processions.

Mrs Sheikh Hasina and Mrs Khaleda Zia—the country's two major opposition leaders—called for an intensified agitation to hasten the process of President Ershad's resignation.

5 Parties Join Combined Opposition Group

BK060245 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] Five political parties have announced their decision to join the combined opposition parties. The parties are: Muslim Democratic League, Bangladesh Krishakbadi Party, Bangladesh National Congress Dal, Gonotantra Baktabayan Parishad, and Jatiya Gonotantrik Dal. The leaders of these parties have (?described) the formation of the combined opposition parties as a significant event on the way of holding parliamentary elections in the country.

A meeting of the standing committee of the 27-party Islamic solidarity alliance was held in Dhaka yesterday with the convener of the alliance, Maulana Habibullah, in the chair. The meeting in a resolution demanded

deferrment of the election by 3 weeks and also called for holding both union parishad [council] and parliamentary polls the same day to reduce the expenditure.

BNP Chief Khaleda Zia has reiterated the demand of three opposition alliances for resignation of the government to pave the way for free and fair election under a neutral (?man) acceptable to them. The BNP chief said if her party is voted to power, it will do away with the press and publication ordinance and other black laws and will establish multiparty democracy. She said this while exchanging New Year's greetings with newsmen in Dhaka yesterday.

President of Bangladesh Awami League Sheikh Hasina has said that the current movement has been launched to establish democratic rule in the country on a permanent basis. She was talking to party leaders from five northern districts at the party office in Dhaka yesterday. Sheikh Hasina demanded immediate release of all political detenus [detainees] and reiterated her earlier demand for an impartial election under a caretaker nonparty government.

Bangladesh A'injodhi Federation at an emergency meeting in Dhaka yesterday called upon the major political parties to evolve a way for discussion for holding impartial elections.

India

Soviet Union Leases Nuclear Submarine to Navy

BK051606 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] The Soviet Union has leased a nuclear submarine to India for use by the Indian Navy for training purposes. It has no nuclear weapons or simulations on board. The vessel will depart for India in the next few days.

PATRIOT Cites UNI on Soviet AWACS

BK060959 Delhi PATRIOT in English 21 Dec 87 p 1

[Text] India is considering the acquisition of AWACS (Airborne Warning and Control System) aircraft from the Soviet Union which Moscow has recently unveiled, reports UNI [UNITED NEWS OF INDIA].

In view of the emerging threats from the deteriorating security environment in the region, military experts feel that up to three Soviet AWACS could be purchased for the Indian Air force [IAF].

The Soviets have all along been saying that they did not have the AWACS but now they claim they have something which matched the sophisticated E-3AS, the American AWACS that Pakistan is seeking.

The Soviet AWACS, which the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) had codenamed Mainstay, are said to be able to detect Cruise missiles and low flying targets over land and sea with pinpoint accuracy.

The new Soviet AWACS are also considered to be vastly superior to the previous Airborne Early Warning (AEW) aircraft based on the TU-126. The new AWACS are now in operation in the Kola Peninsula of the Soviet Union where they have become associated with SU-27 fighter aircraft.

Military experts say that with the existing infrastructure of the Indian air defence, it should not be difficult to make the Soviet AWACS compatible with high performance fighter interceptors which the Indian Air Force has.

Most of the Indian Air Force frontline squadrons now consist of MIG-21bis, MIG-23 MF and the latest MIG-29's with which the Soviet AWACS could be easily integrated. However, the AWACS might not be compatible with the Mirage 2000 aircraft, but then the IAF has only two squadrons of Mirages.

The Soviets have converted their heavy airlift IL-76 aircraft by installing the latest Electronic Counter Measures (ECM) equipment and mounted a rotating rotodome containing the radar on it which has six revolutions per minute. The rotodome does not interfere with the flight stability of the aircraft as it is aerodynamically shaped.

A recent Pentagon publication called 'Soviet Military Plans' published from Washington has stated that the Soviet IL-76 AWACS has a new Identification Friends and Foe (IFF) system and it incorporates comprehensive ECM and the electronic counter-measures equipment on board.

It says that in place of the twin-gun rear turrets the Soviet AWACS has radars and warning receivers. Its electronic intelligence system consists of both active and passive ECM measures.

The IL-76's high tail makes for good rearward radar coverage. The AWACS has in-flight refuelling system which could give it an endurance upwards of 12 hours.

The Indian Air Force already has a couple of IL-76 aircraft which are being used as freight and troop transporters. The IL-76 AWACS are fitted with four Soloviev D-30 turbofan engines and can cruise at 850 kilometres per hour at normal heights of 13,000 metres.

42 Gurkha Activists Arrested in Police Raid

BK060802 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] In West Bengal, police conducted raids at Tindharia under Kurseong police station this morning and arrested 42 GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] activists.

According to official sources, GNLF activists blocked the road at Tindharia to prevent the movement of police. While the police were clearing the blockade, GNLF activists attacked them. They opened fire and threw bombs at the police party. Police returned fire in which one GNLF activist was injured. Later, they searched the area.

GNLF activists had also attacked a police camp at Hema Fall under Darjeeling subdivision last night. They escaped when the police returned the fire.

Meanwhile, there is an acute shortage of essential items like medicine, kerosene, vegetables, and milk in Kalimpong town following the strike by the hill employees association. Attendance in state government offices of the town continues to be thin today also.

Iran

Beirut Embassy Condemns Israeli Camp Attacks

LD051833 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the Palestinian camps of 'Ayn al-Hulwah and Al-Miyah wa Miyah in the environs of Sidon and Ma'shur camp in the city of Tyre in southern Lebanon held funeral ceremonies yesterday for 13 martyrs of the recent bombardment by the Zionist regime of several areas in the coastal region between Beirut and Sidon.

Following the bombings, the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran issued a statement condemning the recent Zionist crime of bombing civilians. The statement also declared: The blood of the martyrs spilled in occupied Palestine and Lebanon demonstrates the unity of and cooperation between Muslims in the resistance against that criminal enemy. It also shows the severe opposition to the resolutions of the Amman conference and the Palestinian compromisers. These aggressions are the result of the unbalanced and desperate situation of the disintegrating Zionist regime.

The Lebanese Hizballah in a statement also conveyed their salutations and condolences to the Islamic ummah on the martyrdom of a number of innocent women and children. It considered the only response to the crimes of the Zionist regime to be rebellion and confrontation vis-a-vis the Zionist regime until they are driven out of Muslim territories.

Carlucci To Continue U.S. Policy in Gulf

LD061404 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1104 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Political commentary: "Carlucci Persists in Continuing Aggressive U.S. Policy in Persian Gulf"]

[Text] The week-long trip by Frank Carlucci, the present U.S. war minister [as heard], began with a visit to Kuwait. He was supposed to visit Bahrain, Hijaz [Saudi Arabia], and Oman as well, but according to the latest reports his trip to Oman has been cancelled.

At a press conference following his meeting with Kuwaiti officials, Carlucci expressed support for continuing the policy of escorting Kuwaiti oil tankers. While confirming the interventionist U.S. policy in the Persian Gulf, he denied that there might be changes in the work program of the U.S. Navy units in the Persian Gulf. The main reason for the U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf and its escorting of the Kuwaiti tankers in this part of the world, which began last summer, is in line with U.S. support for the Iraqi regime. Under the pretext of supporting free shipping, the United States escalated its military presence in the Persian Gulf, and in this connection dispatched more than 70 warships and supply ships of the NATO members to this region.

This U.S. measure, undertaken with the NATO members' cooperation, exposed the two clear policies that the United States has adopted against the Islamic Republic. First, the United States, by using advanced equipment to support the Iraqi regime, communicated intelligence data to Iraq, and even jammed the electronics systems of Iran's telecommunication centers in order for Iraqi planes to hit their targets.

Second, the United States, faced with its unsuccessful attempt to put pressure on the Islamic Republic of Iran, resorted to threats and psychological warfare by dispatching military forces to the region. This measure was in line with the policy of preparing suitable grounds for the United States and its allies in the Security Council to support the Iraqi regime and force Iran to accept their unfair demands.

In order to reach its goals, the United States adopted some hasty policies in the Persian Gulf. Moreover, in Security Council Resolution No 598 the United States ignored Article 5 and brought its forces to the war zone. Western sources have interpreted this U.S. measure as a hasty move in support of the Ba'thist regime and as a miscalculated action by U.S. statesmen to save the Baghdad rulers.

Thanks to Islamic Iran's steadfastness in the face of arrogant U.S. plots, the passage of time has created new conditions in Persian Gulf developments. As a result,

world public opinion is concerned about the developments in this region, and the people of the countries that have dispatched military forces to the Persian Gulf have protested.

Meanwhile, as it became clear that the warmongering policy undertaken by the White House rulers in support of the Baghdad regime is pointless in the Persian Gulf region, Carlucci replaced that country's former war minister, Weinberger. Western sources have always spoken of Carlucci's more moderate stance. However, as Reagan's security adviser, in spite of his outstanding difference of views with the former war minister, he backed the presence of the U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf. Despite the failure of the White House policies in the Persian Gulf, in his remarks in Kuwait Carlucci insisted on continuing Washington's policies in the region.

A review of Washington's policy in the previous year shows that the presence of U.S. forces has escalated tension and regional conflicts and undermined security. Basically, the tension has stemmed from the presence of the foreign forces and their intervention in the region's security. About 178 ships were damaged in the Persian Gulf during the last Christian year. Compared with previous years, the figure has increased several times. The casualty figure of the ships' crews also increased to about 80 and insurance rates doubled. In any case, the interventionist policies of the White House in the Persian Gulf has created so much tension and insecurity in this sensitive and strategic region that the financial losses are estimated to be in the billions of dollars.

At the same time, Washington has not escaped losses either, having suffered losses in men and material. However, the truth is that if Washington statesmen were to persist in continuing their hostile policies against the Islamic Republic of Iran, and should they continue their support for Iraq and some reactionary Arab states, the region inevitably will become more insecure. U.S. Marines will be the main target. The aggressive presence of foreign forces in the sensitive and strategic Persian Gulf region will never be accepted by the Muslim people of the region. Moreover, the trend of the bullying U.S. policies will not undermine the firm resolve of the Islamic Republic of Iran to regain its rights, on the battlefronts or in the international arena.

Commentary on Political Opposition in Bahrain

LD052140 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Political commentary]

[Text] Concurrent with protest waves of expansion [as heard] and Muslims' sympathy against suppression of Palestinian Muslims in the occupied territories and in line with the measures taken by the Zionists in preventing an increasing feeling of sympathy by other Muslims for the innocent Palestinian nation, the reactionary rulers of the Persian Gulf littoral shaykhdoms have embarked on preventive measures.

During recent weeks, Bahraini revolutionary Muslims under the leadership of Bahraini theologians, by holding ceremonies in the grand mosque of Bahrain, strongly condemned the inhuman behavior of the Qods [Jerusalem] occupying regime towards the Palestinian Muslims residing in the occupied territories and have strongly criticized America's policies in its pre-planned attempt aimed at suppressing Muslims in the region.

The reaction of the subservient Bahraini shaykhs in this relation has been an increase in the waves of arrests and imposition of various restrictions against this movement. So far a large group of the Muslim inmates in Bahrain have lost their lives as a result of continuous systematic tortures. According to figures released by concerned sources, the number of political prisoners in that country has reached a figure of over 1,500 persons. In view of the 270,000 population of this island this figure indicates not only an atmosphere of severe censorship and suppression in that country but it is also indicative of increasing opposition in Bahrain.

With the combination of Islamic movements in the region, the security organization of Bahrain has become strongly active on various occasions when anti-American and anti-Zionist sentiments emerged in the region and it has embarked on suppressive operations and various arrests in such circumstances.

These measures have taken further dimensions especially following the bloody tragedy of Mecca which provoked a wave of public disgust among Muslims and also with the arrival of American forces in the Persian Gulf, in the process of which the regime of Bahrain, put further facilities at their disposal.

Although the recent wave of support by the Bahraini Muslim people for the Palestinian people's uprising and their extensive protests against Bahraini shaykhs have been faced with strong suppression and growing preventive measures, beyond doubt it is as dangerous for these shaykhs as it is for their masters.

Undoubtedly, growing security measures and arrest and detention of Bahraini Muslim strugglers are indicative of the degree of horror and anxiety which is increasing every day. According to news sources, over the past few days tight security measures have been taken in various regions of Bahrain, including imposition of night curfew, extensive security measures in the vicinity of the embassies and American military installations which have been accompanied with several armed clashes between Bahraini security patrol units and Muslim strugglers of that island.

Recently, the city of Bani Jamrah in Bahrain witnessed several clashes. People's entry to the coastal region of Sanabis has been banned and the regime of Bahrain has added security in such townships as Hawalah, and Sanabis which enjoy extreme significance owing to their relations and (?station) in Bahrain.

Beyond doubt, reports on involvement of Bahraini shaykhs in the bloody tragedy of Mecca and their increasing participation in anti-Islamic ummah plots can lead to the growing wave of recent struggles and fanning of anti-Zionist and anti-American sentiments in the shaykhdom. Hence, it seems that the rulers of Bahrain are facing an undesirable outlook whose nature will be determined not by detention and increasing atmosphere of censorship but by the actions taken by the Muslim people of that island with a view to preventing the reactionary shaykhs from the path they have chosen.

U.S. Entanglement in Iraqi Fate Assessed

LD051748 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 5, IRNA—When all portents indicate Saddam's (Husayn) fast approaching hour of doom, Ronald Reagan and his politically bankrupt policy-makers seem to be getting more entangled in the Iraqi regime's wretched fate.

Political observers pointing to the latest case of 'mistaken identity' by jittery Iraqi pilots in the Persian Gulf and the subsequent hushing up of the whole affair by the Zionist controlled international mass media, interpret it as a further proof of the growing U.S.-Iraq axis. Last Saturday a Greek-owned Maltese flagged freighter carrying cargo for Kuwait became the latest victim of the hopelessly inaccurate Iraqi pilots, when they slammed a French made Exocet missile into the starboard side of the ill fated ship. The irony is, it was enroute to the Ba'thist regime's most 'faithful' regional ally (Kuwait), whose sea lanes Reagan has so ardently vowed to keep open.

Quickly the matter was closed as a 'case of mistaken identity', evoking memories of last May's Iraqi attack on the U.S. frigate 'Stark', which sent 37 American servicemen to a watery grave in the Persian Gulf.

The events bring another glaring fact to light and prove the gross inefficiency of the Iraqi pilots. Any unidentified blip on the screen makes the nervous Iraqis trigger the button, say observers noting that the Stark was fired from a distance of 32 kms while last Saturday's attack was from well over 25 kms.

At a time when most countries including many West European states have awakened to the reality of the situation, poor Reagan instead of regaining his senses seems to be sacrificing American lives and honor, for the sole reason of justifying his misconceived intrusion in the Persian Gulf region.

Khamene'i Addresses Donors to War Effort

LD051352 Tehran IRNA in English 1225 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 5, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i said here Tuesday that the strong solidarity and cooperation between the government and people is the secret to the success of the Islamic Republic.

The president also said the spirit of solidarity and the feeling of responsibility among the Iranian people from all walks of life has served to protect Islam, adding "This is our best weapon in the confrontation with satanic powers."

President Khamene'i made the remarks in his speech to a group of visitors who called on him to submit their donations for the Iraqi-imposed war here.

Today, Khamene'i said, the United States and other arrogant powers feeling helpless in the face of the Islamic Republic have conceded that their weapon against Iran is of no use.

After his speech, the president received a sum of 1.3 million dollars in cash and 10 kgs of gold from the visitors.

SAIRI Congress Views Overthrow of Iraqi Regime

LD051153 Tehran IRNA in English 1121 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 5, IRNA—The two-day extraordinary congress of the sixth session of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) opened here Tuesday to talk over spread of popular insurrection of Iraqi people as the only way to overthrow the Baghdad regime.

The session attended by all SAIRI's General Assembly members and Central Committee opened by a speech delivered by head of SAIRI's General Assembly Sayyid 'Ali Ha'eri who discussed the situation in Iraq after the uprising in the northern Kurdish-populated areas.

Ha'eri said that the spread of the Muslim Iraqi Mojahedin in Iraq and the present situation of northern Iraq "have brought up new conditions for us."

He said that the determination of the Islamic Republic of Iran to end the seven-year-old Iraqi-imposed war through military actions as well as gradual weakening of the Iraqi Ba'thist regime has further expanded the role of Iraqi Mojahedin, inviting all groups to join ranks.

Ha'eri said the extraordinary session aims at spreading military action against the Baghdad regime and helping Kurdish uprising because grounds for a massive insurrection are being prepared in the northern parts of the country.

President Khamene'i's representative to the session Hojjat ol-Eslam Salek was another speaker who noted that the events of the past seven months show that the world arrogance has entered the arena with all its resources to stand up against the just demand of the two nations of Iraq and Iran.

He pointed to the Amman Arab summit whose aim was to fight Islam and deflect the public attention from the Zionist regime and to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

At this crucial moment, he added, the role of Iraqi people in continuation of the struggle against the Iraqi Ba'thist regime becomes apparent.

He also discussed the failed Arab leaders' efforts in the recently-concluded conference of the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council (P)GCC and said that the uprising of the Iraqi Kurds and Muslim Mojahedin's operations inside Iraq reveals that the Iraqi people are the ones immediately demanding the Baghdad regime's fall.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Salek described the increasing street clashes and assassination of Iraqi agents in Iraqi cities as signs of "awareness of the Iraqi people and growth of their struggle."

He questioned the wisdom of the silence of international organisations over Iraq's chemical bombardment of Kurdish-populated villages which dislodged thousands of Iraqi Kurds.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Salek said that Iraqi people will never forget Saddam's (Husayn) crimes and the world arrogance is well aware of the fact that all its interests and those of reactionary Arab leaders would be jeopardized by Saddam's fall and by breaking of 'this defensive barrage'.

The SAIRI's head Hojjat ol-Eslam Muhammad Baqr Hakim also speaking in the session announced mobilization of all Iraqi forces to finalize the Iraqi-imposed war, adding that SAIRI has concentrated on mobilizing 100,000-strong force to deliver successive blows on the Iraqi Ba'thist regime.

Nearly 20,000 Iraqi Kurds are actively taking part in the fight against the Baghdad regime, he noted.

SAIRI, said Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim, intends to accelerate the downfall of the Ba'thists' rule by encouraging Iraqi youth to join resistance cells.

SAIRI's head pointed to SAIRI's strategy in future and the outcome of the (P)GCC conference and said that the conference served the interests of the world arrogance.

But, he stressed, Iraqi Muslim Mojahedin will go on fighting till the fall of Saddam and will thwart all plots by establishing an Islamic Government in Iraq.

Head of the Basij unit of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Coprs Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad 'Ali Rahmani, speaking at the extraordinary congress of the Suppreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI), emphasized the "importance" of the SAIRI officials presence in the liberated areas.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Rahmani said the presence of SAIRI officials in the liberated Iraqi territories will give a boost to the Iraqi people's struggle against the ruling Ba'thist regime and will knit various Iraqi groups into a single force via this channel.

He called on SAIRI officials to consider stationing of their forces in liberated areas of Iraq, including Al-Faw Peninsula, from where they can effectively operate against the Iraqi forces with the help of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

This, he said, will be a suitable ground for attracting more Iraqi army deserters and draft-dodgers to join the Iraqi liberation forces.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Rahmani expressed hope that SAIRI will play an effective rule by mobilizing all its resources and coordinating combatant Iraqi groups fighting inside the country.

Price Committee Head on Profiteering, Inflation

LD051407 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Excerpts] At a news conference today, the head of the Central Committee for the Supervision of Prices and Inflation Control explained the outcome of the plan for controlling inflation and fighting profiteering. He announced the names of 10 more items to be included in the plan. He referred to the more slowly accelerating prices, the 50 percent reduction in the foreign currency rate for exports, and the lower inflation figure as a positive outcome of this plan. He added: On the basis of the statistics and official reports of the Central Bank, the index for essential commodities and services required by the people has increased by only 5.2 percent compared with last year, whereas the growth for a similar period last year was about 10 percent. [passage omitted]

He announced the names of 10 more items to be included in the plan that have been approved by the heads of the three powers on the basis of his holiness the imam's permission. The list includes raw materials and equipment required for agricultural products in order to support arable and livestock farmers and other agricultural producers; fertilizers; pesticides; grain husk; pulps; cottonseed; unginned cotton; medicine used in livestock production; imported hay, oilseeds, spare parts, and farm equipment; foodstuffs; and medical and surgical items.

He stressed: Beginning today, anyone selling these items outside the government network and regulations and above the fixed prices will be treated in accordance with the corporal punishment regulations.

Any economic abuse of birth certificates and identity cards, including forgery and cheating or avoiding death registration through the timely submission of the birth certificate of the deceased, giving false information and documents for receiving new birth certificates will be subjected to the corporal punishment plan.

Medical Workers To Register for Duty at Fronts

LD061129 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] The dates and methods for registering doctors, dentists, and paramedics from throughout the country for a one month tour of duty at the fronts in the coming year [beginning 21 March 88] were announced by the Ministry of Health, Hygiene, and Medical Training.

According to IRNA, a statement issued in this connection said: The dates and methods for the registration of all doctors, dentists, and paramedics who are employed in Iranian medical faculties, at Tehran University, at Martyr Beheshti University, and in the regional health organizations of Tehran, Qom, and other provinces of the country will be announced by the local organizers in each town and university.

The above categories who live in Tehran Province, except those living in Qom and who are not employed at any of the universities, should report to the headquarters in charge of treating the war wounded and injured situated in Fakhr-e Razi Street, Building No 3 of the Ministry of Health, Hygiene, and Medical Training from 23 January to 24 February 1988 to register for one month of service in the year 1367 [Iranian year beginning 21 March 88].

Communique No 3,072 Notes Air Cover for Boats

LD051551 Tehran IRNA in English 1530 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 5, IRNA—The battle between Iran's Muslim combatants and Iraqi Ba'thist troops continued throughout the fronts Monday with the latter sustaining substantial losses in men and equipment, said a military communique here Tuesday.

The 3072nd joint staff communique said that a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and five enemy group bunkers and a watch tower destroyed in parts of the southern and western fronts in artillery duels with Iranian gendarmerie forces Monday.

Iraqi motorized columns moving around Naft-e Shah, Kani-Sheykh and Chazabeh, western and southern sectors, Monday were shelled by Iranian combatants as a result of which a number of enemy soldiers were killed or wounded and several vehicles were destroyed.

Iran's naval gunboats effectively carried out their patrol missions in the southern Iranian territorial and international waters Monday with the air force providing air cover for them, concluded the communique.

Sri Lanka

Suspected Tamil Rebels Torch Muslim Village

BK051432 Hong Kong AFP in English 1404 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] Colombo, Jan 5 (AFP)—Suspected Tamil guerrillas torched a Moslem village in eastern Sri Lanka Tuesday fuelling fears that the latest violence might lead to communal clashes, officials and residents said.

The attackers looted and later set fire to about 60 houses in Karbala village in the Batticaloa District, but there were no casualties, residents in Batticaloa said.

Officials said the village was almost deserted because people had fled their homes after last week's gunbattle in the neighbouring Kathankudy village between Tamil separatists and Moslem funadentalists which left 25 people dead.

About 15,000 people from Karbala had taken refuge at state-sponsored welfare centres in Batticaloa, officials said.

The latest violence came as Indian troops in the multiethnic Eastern Province were on maximum alert for the second day Tuesday to prevent an outbreak of clashes between Moslems and predominantly Hindu Tamils.

Indian soldiers set up two camps at Kathankudy Monday where tension was running high, Batticaloa's main civil administrator said by telephone.

Mr. V. Selvaratnam said his efforts to hold talks with Moslem and Tamil leaders in a bid to defuse tension in the area failed due to transport problems through the troubled village. "Vehicles are not moving into Kathankudy yet," Mr. Selvaratnam said by telephone. "The situation there is still tense but it has not worsened thanks to increased patrols by Indians and Sri Lankan police."

He said he had arranged a meeting of elders from both communities Tuesday to "impress on the people that the fighting started between two armed groups." But Mr. Selvaratnam said he feared continuing tension might easily lead to full scale communal violence.

Last week's violence was triggered by the Moslem Jihad's execution Wednesday of a Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrilla accused of extorting money from Moslem businessmen in Kathankudy. India has poured more troops into the village and has sought help from the Moslem community in its campaign against the LTTE.

Indian troops deployed in Sri Lanka's Northern and Eastern Provinces to enfore a New Delhi-backed peace accord launched a major offensive against the LTTE on October 10 when it rejected peace and refused to surrender arms.

Moslem and Sinhalese communities living in the east will have an impact on a forthcoming referendum that will decide if people there want a merger of their province with the Tamil-dominated north to continue.

Analysts believe that this proposed merger specified in the July 29 peace accord and the combined strength of the two communities have provoked Tamil attacks on Sinhalese and Moslem villages.

Moslems who are mainly fishermen, rice farmers and businessmen, have been in the Eastern Province for hundreds of years, but their relations with the Tamil community have been strained, and there have been sporadic violent confrontations in recent years. Historically, however, the Moslems have close links with the Tamil population, tracing their origin to low-caste Indian Hindus liberated through Islam.

IPKF Kills Four Militants; Refugees Return

BK051612 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] In Sri Lanka, four militants were killed during an encounter with the Peacekeeping Force near Palaly today. An official spokesman told our correspondent in Jaffna that six militants were apprehended in Jaffna town and other areas, while one surrendered in (Kadduwan). Meanwhile, attendance in schools in the town is said to be quite encouraging. About 75 percent students attended schools in Vadamarachchi area.

Our Colombo correspondent Plabon Majumder reports that 260 Sri Lankan Tamil refugees reached Talaimannar today from Tamil Nadu. They were carried by an Indian naval boat. These refugees, who constitute 50 families will be given rehabilitation package of about 12,000 rupees per family and will be provided ration for months. This is the second batch of refugees returning to Sri lanka from Tamil Nadu.

Indian Forces Raid LTTE Hideout, Seize Arms

BK061045 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1019 GMT 6 Jan 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Jan 6 (LANKA PUWATH)—The Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) seized 2 AK-47 rifles, 7 operational maps, 1 G3 rifle, 335 rounds of 5.56 ammunition, 142 rounds 7.62, 30 rounds of 9 mm, 18 hand grenades, 1 grenade launching tube and 9 jerry cans containing explosives and detonators during a raid on an LTTE hideout at Chunnakam, in the Jaffna Peninsula.

Official sources told LANKA PUWATH that the raid followed information given by a hardcore LTTE terrorist who was arrested at Chunnakam.

Two LTTE terrorists were also apprehended in the Jaffna town yesterday along with two improvised devices. At Navatkuly, Jaffna a large quantity of LTTE propaganda literature was seized by the IPKF. Five claymore mines were found at Urumpirai, Jaffna.

At Erataperiyakulam in the Vavuniya District LTTE terrorists, ambushed at 1015 hours (local time) a van that had been earlier hijacked by the PLOTE. They shot dead a PLOTE cadre named Raghu and wounded the driver of the vehicle, a Sinhalese civilian, K. Nimal.

A report from Akuressa states that R. M. Premaratne, a supporter of the ruling United National Party (UNP), was hacked to death with an axe by subversives. Subversives were also reported to have killed R.M. Nimal Ratnayake. He was found dead inside his hiring car at Nanartakulam, Alagala, in the Vavuniya District.